

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Peace in the Midst of Your Storm

SERMON REFERENCE: Galatians 5:22, Matthew 14:22-34

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1435

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- 1) INTRODUCTION
 - a) Galatians 5:22
 - i) Peace is the fruit of the Spirit.
 - b) When we talk about peace, we need to understand what kind of peace we are talking about.
 - i) There is peace “with” God.
 - (1) We do not have peace with God until we become a child of God.
 - (a) Romans 5:1
 - ii) There is the peace “of” God.
 - (1) This is the peace that Galatians 5:22 is talking about.
 - c) Some people have peace “with” God, but they do not have the peace “of” God in their hearts.
 - i) Colossians 3:15
 - ii) Philippians 4:7
 - d) When the Lord Jesus Christ was facing the cross, He left us His peace.
 - i) John 14:27
 - ii) It is not the kind of peace that the world gives or can take away.
 - iii) It is supernatural peace.
 - (1) It is the peace of God that passes all understanding.
 - (2) It is the peace of God that is to rule in our hearts.
 - e) We need to understand what peace is.
 - i) This kind of peace is not the absence of problems.
 - (1) We will never have the absence of problems as long as we are on this Earth.
 - (a) Job 14:1
 - ii) Peace is the addition of power.
 - iii) An illustration of this kind of peace is found in Matthew 14.
 - (1) In this passage of Scripture, we find the story of Jesus walking on the water.
 - (a) This was more than a miracle.
 - (i) It was a miracle, and it literally happened.
 - (ii) This was a miracle with a message.
 - (2) Through this, God illustrates to us what real peace is in the midst of our storms.
 - f) Sooner or later, we will all be in a storm.
 - i) Life is often like a storm.
 - ii) Psalm 42:7
 - (1) David was speaking poetically, but he was also speaking graphically.
 - (2) Sometimes we are engulfed in a storm.
 - iii) Matthew 14:22-34
 - (1) This tells us clearly and plainly how to have peace in the midst of our storms.
 - g) In today’s message, we will look at five words that spell the word “peace” that will help us understand how to have peace in the midst of our storms.

- 2) PROVIDENCE: HIS PURPOSE BROUGHT US HERE (MATTHEW 14:22)
 - a) Matthew 14:22
 - i) The Lord Jesus told the disciples to get into a ship.
 - (1) They were not in that ship because they were out of the will of God.
 - (2) They were in the ship because they were in the will of God.
 - b) Jesus Christ providentially led the disciples into a storm.
 - i) Don't get the idea that if we are in the will of God that we will not have any storms.
 - (1) The disciples were in the will of God and went right into a storm.
 - ii) The Lord Jesus knew there was a storm coming.
 - (1) He was the one who could walk on water.
 - (2) He was the one who could tell the waves to be still and they would be still.
 - (a) Mark 4:39
 - (3) The Bible says that He knew all things.
 - (4) He knew there was a storm coming; and knowing that, He led them into a storm.
 - iii) There is a false theology today that says that if we are right with God, then we will not have any problems.
 - (1) This is not true, and it is not Biblical.
 - (a) We are going to have storms.
 - c) There are two kinds of storms that come to us in life.
 - i) There are storms that we cause ourselves.
 - (1) The prophet Jonah got into this kind of storm.
 - (a) Jonah got into a storm because he was out of the will of God.
 - (2) These storms are correcting storms.
 - ii) The disciples got into a storm because they were in the will of God.
 - (1) These storms are perfecting storms.
 - d) Whether it is a correcting storm or a perfecting storm, God is over all.
 - i) The Bible speaks of the winds and waves that obey Him.
 - (1) Psalm 42:7
 - (2) Psalm 148:8
 - ii) God is in control.
 - iii) If someone is in a storm right now, you know that if God did not cause it, then He allowed it.
 - (1) It did not take Him by surprise.
 - (a) There is nothing that comes to us that God does not know about.
 - (2) He is over it, beyond it, through it, above it, and in it.
 - (3) He is the providential God.
 - (a) His purpose brought us here.
 - iv) God never says, "Oops."
 - e) Romans 8:28

- 3) ENTREATY: HIS PRAYERS PROTECT US HERE (MATTHEW 14:23)
 - a) The Lord Jesus is entreating for us.
 - i) He is praying for us in the midst of our storms.
 - ii) His prayers bring a mantle of protection over us.
 - b) Matthew 14:23
 - i) Jesus was on the mountain entreating for His disciples.
 - (1) He was praying for them.
 - (2) Mark tells of the same account in Mark 6:47-48.
 - ii) The disciples were out on the sea, and the waves were boisterous.
 - iii) Jesus was on the mountain, and He had His eyes on them.
 - (1) He was entreating the Father for them.
 - c) In our storms, the Bible teaches that Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us.
 - i) Hebrews 7:25
 - ii) Jesus Christ has us on His prayer list.
 - (1) His prayers are always answered.
 - (a) John 11:42
 - iii) If you had a big problem, how would it make you feel to know that the Lord Jesus was in the next room on His knees praying for you?
 - (1) It is nonetheless true that He is now in the glory praying for us.
 - (a) He is entreating the Father on our behalf.
 - (2) He has His eye upon us, and He watches us.
- 4) ASSURANCE: HIS PRESENCE COMES TO US HERE (MATTHEW 14:24-25)
 - a) Jesus Christ will be more real to us in our storms than at any other time.
 - b) The waves that seemed to threaten the disciples brought Jesus to them.
 - i) Matthew 14:24-25
 - (1) The very sea that they thought was going to drown them was the vehicle that brought Jesus to them.
 - c) He always comes to us in the midst of our storms.
 - i) We may not recognize Him; but if we are a child of God, then He is there.
 - ii) Isaiah 43:1-2
 - (1) The Lord is always with us in our storms.
 - iii) Study the stories of people who have been in storms and problems.
 - (1) He was with the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace.
 - (a) Daniel 3:8-25
 - (b) Jesus walked with them.
 - (2) He was with Daniel in the lion's den.
 - (a) Daniel 6:6-23
 - (3) He was with the disciples in the upper room after the resurrection.
 - (a) They were trembling behind closed doors, and the Bible says that Jesus appeared to them in their midst.
 - (b) John 20:26
 - (i) He always appears.

- (ii) He always says, "Peace," in the middle of our storms.
- iv) Matthew 14:27
 - (1) In this passage, the words, "It is I," in the Greek language are the words, "I Am."
 - (a) He is the great I Am in the midst of our storms.
- d) We need to learn how to recognize Jesus in the storm.
 - i) The disciples at first did not recognize Him.
 - (1) Matthew 14:26
 - (a) They were afraid.
 - (2) Jesus was there in their storm, but because they did not recognize His presence, they had no peace.
- e) Isaiah 26:3
- f) We need to put our eyes upon the Lord Jesus.
 - i) Peter took his eyes off of Jesus, and he began to sink.
 - (1) Matthew 14:30
 - ii) Romans 8:6
 - (1) There are people who are circumstance-minded, trouble-minded, self-minded, and some are spiritually-minded.
 - iii) We have the assurance that His presence will come to us in the midst of the storm.
 - (1) Corrie Ten Boom said:
 - (a) If we look at circumstance and the world, then we will be distressed.
 - (b) If we look within, then we will be depressed.
 - (c) If we look at Christ, then we will be at rest.
- g) Colossians 3:15
- h) We have stress when we lose the peace of God.
 - i) We are stressed to the degree that we have taken our eyes from Jesus and put them on the problem.
 - (1) Stress is the measure of the degree that we have our eyes upon the storm and not upon God.
- i) Psalm 46:1-3
 - i) God is present in our trouble.
 - ii) Verse two is not talking about small trouble.
- j) Psalm 46:10
 - i) God says that we should be still and know that He is God.
 - ii) What we fail to do when we get in the storm is to get our eyes off of the waves and onto the Lord.
 - (1) The difference between the amount that we have our eyes on the storm and not on God is stress.
 - iii) Matthew 14:27
 - iv) We have the assurance that He will never leave us nor forsake us.
 - (1) Hebrews 13:5
- k) In the center of hurricanes, there is a calm spot in the eye of the storm.

- i) In our storm, there is a center that is calm.
 - (1) It is the heart of God.
 - (2) We need to understand that He is there.
 - (3) He is the “I Am” in the midst of our storm.

- 5) COMFORT: HIS POWER SUSTAINS US HERE (MATTHEW 14:26-29)
 - a) Matthew 14:26-29
 - i) It takes power to walk on water.
 - b) The word “comfort” does not mean just soothing someone.
 - i) It literally means “with strength.”
 - ii) It means, “His power sustains me here.”
 - c) Why did Jesus put the disciples in that ship knowing a storm was coming, and why did He walk on the water and allow Peter to walk on the water?
 - i) Jesus performed this miracle to teach one of the most glorious spiritual lessons we will ever learn.
 - ii) God wants to give us power to sustain us in our storms.
 - iii) The disciples were afraid they were going to sink and drown.
 - iv) Jesus was walking on the very waves that the disciples were afraid of.
 - (1) Jesus was showing them that what looked like was going to be over their heads was already under His feet.
 - v) John 16:33
 - (1) In this verse, Jesus is talking about peace.
 - (a) We are going to have storms, but He has overcome them.
 - (b) What looks like is over our heads is under His feet.
 - d) The Bible teaches in Ephesians 1 that Jesus Christ is exalted.
 - i) He is at the right hand of the Father, and He is over everything.
 - (1) Ephesians 1:20
 - ii) Ephesians 1:22
 - (1) He is head over all, and all things are under His feet.
 - (a) He is the head of the Church, and the Church is His body.
 - (b) He is our head, so all things are under our feet.
 - (i) We cannot drown with our head above water.
 - iii) Jesus is in the Heavenlies.
 - (1) Our problems are not problems to Him.
 - (2) He has subdued our problems.
 - (a) John 16:33
 - e) It has been said that the will of God will never take us where the grace of God cannot keep us.
 - i) We will never get into a storm but what He allows it, even if He doesn’t cause it.
 - f) Matthew 14:28-29
 - i) When Peter said, “Lord, let me come to You,” he was saying, “Lord, let me put my feet where You put Your feet. Let Your victory be my victory.”
 - ii) And Jesus said, “Come.”

- (1) That is exactly what He is saying to us today.
- 6) EXPECTATION: HIS PROMISE ASSURES US HERE (MATTHEW 14:30-34)
 - a) We can expect Him to keep His Word.
 - b) Matthew 14:30-34
 - i) It looked like Peter was not going to make it.
 - (1) Have you ever been there?
 - c) They did not go under; they went over because Jesus had commanded them to go to the other side.
 - i) Matthew 14:22
 - ii) Behind every command of God is the promise of God to carry out that command.
 - iii) They did not need to understand how.
 - (1) How is none of our business.
 - (2) God is going to take care of that.
 - d) We do not live by explanations but by promises.
 - i) If God were to explain things to us, most of us would not understand it.
 - (1) Isaiah 55:8-9
 - e) We have the full expectation that God will keep His Word.
 - i) He will see us through.
 - ii) He will perfect that which concerns us.
 - (1) Psalm 138:8
 - iii) Whether it be a perfecting storm or a correcting storm, God will see us through.
 - f) Andrew Murray said that God is willing to assume the full responsibility of a life totally committed to Him.
 - g) Peter began to sink for a while, but he did not drown.
 - i) Psalm 37:23-24
- 7) CONCLUSION
 - a) You can have peace in the midst of your storm.
 - b) You will never have the peace of God until you have peace with God.
 - i) Can you say that you know that your sin is forgiven?
 - c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16