

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor concludes the 'Faith in Storms' series by examining Mark 6:45-56, where the disciples face another storm at sea, but this time without Jesus physically present in the boat. The message explores how Jesus sees the disciples struggling, comes to them walking on water, and reveals His divine nature by using the phrase 'I am' - connecting to God's name revealed to Moses. The pastor emphasizes that sometimes God allows seemingly impossible circumstances in our lives so we can learn to trust Him, and that what feels like a test today may become our testimony tomorrow. The sermon highlights that true peace doesn't come from the absence of storms but from the presence of God, and encourages believers to take courage in knowing who Jesus is during life's difficulties.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather today to discuss Your word and the storms of life, we ask that You would open our hearts to receive what You want to teach us. Lord, just as You saw the disciples straining at the oars, You see each one of us and the struggles we face. Help us to be honest with one another about our storms and receptive to Your truth. May this time together deepen our understanding of who You are and strengthen our faith to trust You even when the winds are against us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What's the most memorable boat ride or water experience you've ever had?

Key Verses

1. John 16:33
2. Mark 6:50
3. Hebrews 3:13
4. Job 9:8
5. Psalm 77:19

Questions

1. The sermon mentions that 'true peace in life doesn't come from the absence of storms but from the presence of God.' How have you experienced this truth in your own life?
2. The disciples were in a storm because they obeyed Jesus' command to get in the boat. Have you ever faced difficulties as a result of following God's direction? How did that affect your faith?
3. Jesus saw the disciples straining at the oars from miles away in the dark. How does it impact you to know that Jesus sees you in your struggles even when you feel alone?
4. The pastor said, 'Sometimes it takes a storm to see His glory.' Can you share about a difficult time that ultimately revealed more of God's character to you?

5. In the story, Jesus didn't immediately calm the storm but first said, 'Take courage. I am. Don't be afraid.' Why do you think Jesus often speaks to us in our storms before calming them?
6. The disciples ended up in Gennesaret instead of Bethsaida. Have you ever had God redirect your path through a storm to somewhere unexpected but ultimately good?
7. The sermon mentioned that 'when we are in the middle of a storm, that's when sin looks good.' Why do you think this is true, and how can we guard against this?
8. How might God be calling you to encourage someone else who is going through a storm right now?

Life Application

This week, identify one storm in your life where you've been straining at the oars in your own strength. Take time each day to specifically invite Jesus into that situation through prayer. Then, reach out to at least one person who might be going through their own storm and offer genuine encouragement. Remember the pastor's words that 'we're never more like Jesus than when we see somebody in a storm, pray for them, and put feet to those prayers.' Your encouragement might be exactly what someone needs to take courage and see Jesus in their storm.

Key Takeaways

1. Sometimes God allows seemingly impossible circumstances in our lives so that we will learn to trust Him rather than our own strength.
2. Jesus not only sees us in our storms (even from a distance), but He comes to us, speaks to us, and gets into the boat with us.
3. What feels like a test today may become your testimony tomorrow as God redeems your storms for His glory.
4. When Jesus revealed Himself as the great 'I AM' walking on water, He was demonstrating His divine nature and power over creation.
5. We are called to encourage one another daily so that none may be hardened by the deception of sin, especially during life's storms.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank You for being the God who sees us in our storms, who comes to us when we're straining at the oars, and who speaks courage into our hearts. Thank You for revealing Your glory even in the midst of our difficulties. Help us to trust You more deeply, knowing that You are the great I AM who has power over every storm we face. Give us courage to invite You into every area of our lives and wisdom to encourage others who are weathering their own storms. May we be people who not only receive Your comfort but extend it to others. As we go from here, remind us that no matter where our storms take us, You are already there waiting to use us. In Your mighty name we pray, amen.