

THE BELIEVER'S LIFE IS LIKE A VOYAGE

Mark 4:35-41; Psalm 107:23-31

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: As Jesus and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee, a terrible storm came up. The disciples were filled with panic and unbelief as Jesus lay asleep in the front of the boat. As the account goes, they woke Jesus and told Him of their fears and He immediately calmed the sea and the storm by just speaking out. By simply speaking, Jesus calmed the storm and removed the danger. The life of every believer in Jesus Christ is like a trip, a voyage across a troubled "sea" to the desired "haven" on the other side (heaven).

I. EVERY BELIEVER'S LIFE IS A TYPE OF VOYAGE

1. Passing over the stormy sea of life is something believers do every day, even this very moment believers are on their way to the "other side" and are walking through the valley of the shadow of death.
 - The sea is a fit emblem (symbol) of human life and the many circumstances that happen during one's life time.
 - James 4:14; Job 7:6; 9:25-26
2. As you look at one another, think "there goes a ship, an immortal soul, rising and falling on the waves of circumstances and time, eventually disappearing over the horizon of time into eternity."
3. The horizon (the other shore) may seem far away, but don't be fooled, for time passes so swiftly and sooner than you realize, it will be your turn to cross over onto the other side and your voyage on life's sea will be ended.

II. THE BELIEVER'S VOYAGE IN LIFE IS ACROSS A STORMY SEA (v37)

1. During one's life he/she will often "sail" into sorrow, affliction, adversity and grief, but like the disciples learned, Jesus' presence assures safety, no matter what the storm may be.
 - The disciples were not being disobedient by being afraid for they willingly followed the Lord into the ship as He told them to do.
 - Loyalty and disobedience to the Lord is often the surest way to trouble and the path of faithfulness is always right during the difficulties of life (storms).
2. Storms of life are many and different but all the trials and troubles of the believer's life come from two sources:
 - The contrary winds of one's outside circumstances.
 - The waves of sin and unbelief from within.
 - Romans 7:14-24
 - Psalm 73:1-3; 21-28

III. THE BELIEVER'S LIFE IS A VOYAGE WITH THE LORD JESUS

1. Jesus never told the believer that He would meet him/her over on the other side, He said "*...Let US pass over unto the other side...*"
 - Jesus was with the disciples, but He was silent.
 - It may appear in one's life that Jesus may be once again asleep as He seems to be silent, but be assured that He does care and He will always be there with the believer.
 - Isaiah 41:10; 43:2; Philippians 4:4-7

IV. THE BELIEVER'S LIFE'S VOYAGE IS MARKED BY MIRACLES (v 39)

1. Believers experience miracles every day from the Lord.
 - The Miracle of Redemption to start with.
 - The Miracle of Regeneration to continue.
 - The Miracle of the Resurrection.
2. It is in the time of one's greatest troubles that the Lord Jesus most clearly displays His wondrous power and grace.
 - It is the "fiery furnaces" in life that His preserving power and presence is known.
 - It is only in the "lion's den" that one sees the Lord's power over the "lions" in one's life.
 - Jesus Christ is able to deliver the believer for He is God!

V. THE BELIEVER'S LIFE VOYAGE SHOULD BE FREE FROM FEAR (v40)

1. The disciples were afraid because of their unbelief.
 - Most believers of today are like the disciples in the boat with Jesus.
 - They should have been perfectly calm, they were doing what Jesus told them to do and Jesus was there with them.
 - They had seen Jesus do many miracles and use His power.
 - They should have just looked over at Jesus when the storm arose for reassurance, but they didn't. They tried to take care of things themselves.
 - There was a terrible storm.
 - The disciples tried to take care of things themselves and failed.
 - Their ship wasn't large enough for such a storm.
2. *"..Why are WE so fearful? Why is it that WE have no faith?"*
 - Jesus is the sovereign God of all, is omnipotent, wise and good.
 - Jesus is in the boat of the believer's life with the believer.
 - Jesus is not only IN the boat, but Jesus IS the boat.
 - Colossians 1:27; 1 John 4:4
3. Jesus is the "boat" of His Church
 - Deuteronomy 23:14; Psalm 46:5; Revelation 2:1
 - The Church is safe and will get through to the other side safely and not one passenger will be lost.
4. Jesus is the "boat" of the Scriptures.
 - Jesus' Word is forever settled in Heaven and cannot be broken, no matter by what or by whom.
 - The Word of God abides forever.

CONCLUSION:

1. For the believer, life is like a voyage and storms come up, through which Jesus is there with the believer.
2. The disciples had their weak moments and so does every other believer.
3. Jesus calmed the storm the disciples were in at sea and Jesus will calm the storms of the believer's life.
4. There is a place on the other side of life to which the believer is headed and one day, with the help of Jesus, that place will be reached (heaven).

