

THE BELIEVER'S LIFE IS LIKE TAKING A TRIP

Mark 4:35-41

Introduction: All of us have taken trips and usually we map out where we are going, roads, where we will stop and eat or what we will stop and see along the way.

Jesus and His disciples were on a little trip across a lake and trouble came as a storm began to toss the little boat around scaring the disciples. They cried for Jesus to give them some help. Faith in and obedience to Jesus does not exempt believers from difficulties in life that others also face. The greatest believers in the world are still sinners and the strongest are sometimes filled with unbelief. However, Jesus is tender, compassionate and forgiving.

Jesus has a reason for everything He does. He was going to the other side of the lake to heal a wild man. Remember the story?

All who have Jesus in their lives are perfectly safe as they pass through the stormy seas of life. Jesus says to all believers what He said to His disciples after the storm, *"Let us pass over unto the other side."*

I. EVERYBODY'S LIFE IS A TRIP

1. From the time we are born to the time our life ends we are on a trip, a voyage through time/life.
 - It is not something we shall do some day, we are on our way right now to the "other side."
 - The other side may seem far away now, but it will be here sooner than we realize.
 - *"What is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14)*

II. THE TRIP IS ACROSS A STORMY SEA OF LIFE

1. Notice that the disciples were not disobedient by being in the boat, yet the storm still came. They followed Jesus' command to go to the other side.
 - Loyalty and obedience to Jesus almost always brings trouble in some form or other.
 - The world will send it's own storms to surround us.
 - We will have storms within, battling temptation and times of unbelief.
 - *Romans 7:14-24*

III. THE BELIEVER'S TRIP IS MADE WITH JESUS CHRIST

1. Jesus was with His disciples but He was silent.
 - In our lives sometimes Jesus is silent and we may think that He doesn't care or can't help.
 - Jesus has told us over and over, *"Lo, I am with you always..." "I will never leave thee.."*
"Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee..."

IV. THE BELIEVER'S TRIP IS MARKED BY MIRACLES

1. The believer's trip is filled with miracles by the same Jesus who was in the boat with the disciples.
 - The miracle of Redemption where the believer is saved from eternal death.
 - The miracle of Regeneration where the believer is born into God's Family.
 - **"It took a miracle to put the world in place. It took a miracle to hang the stars in space. But when God saved my soul, cleansed and made me whole, it took a miracle of love and grace.."**
 - The miracle of Resurrection where the believer will follow Jesus and also be raised to eternal life.
2. The disciples feared for their lives, thinking Jesus didn't care, but they witnessed His marvelous display of power and grace.
 - It is often in our darkest hours of life that we see the awesome display of our Lord's power and grace.

V. THE BELIEVER'S TRIP SHOULD BE FREE OF FEAR

1. ***"Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?"***
 - The disciples' fear came from their unbelief. They should have been perfectly calm for after all, Jesus was right there with them and they were doing what He told them and they had seen before what Jesus could do.
 - Instead of looking to Jesus, they looked at:
 - The terrible storm they were in.
 - Their own inability and weakness.
 - The frailty of the boat.
2. We are no different. Our greatest difficulties, temptations, greatest falls are always the result of unbelief. Why is it that we, like the disciples, in the storms of life, have no faith?
 - Jesus is in the lives of believers and will ensure their safe arrival to the other side.
 - Jesus is in His Church and will not lose a single member. Everyone will arrive safely.
 - Jesus is in the Bible and God's Word will remain forever and never change.
 - Not only is Jesus within the believer, His Church, God's Word, but He is in charge. All power in heaven and earth is given unto Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. Face it! We are on a trip that began when we were born and will end when we die.
2. Only believers in Jesus have the guarantee of a safe trip and guaranteed destination.
3. Why then should believers live in fear, insecurity, hopelessness, anxiety and unsurity when the God of creation lives within them, protecting and personally escorting them?
4. If you are not a believe, you are not a part of God's family, nor does He live within you and you are on your own to face whatever happens in your life. When you reach the other side, it won't be the same side to which believers will be arriving. You won't be with God.