

WHEN DESPERATE

Matthew 14:22-33

Introduction: Every person, even Christians, have a time of distress, discouragement, darkness, danger as well as moments of despair, intensity, excruciating, moments when life and death are in the balance and one is too weak nor has the wisdom to tip the scales in his/her favor, and cannot strive nor struggle, flee nor faint...when in such a strait, one can only cry out to God.

Happy is the heart, however rough the experience, that knows "HIM" whose ear is not so heavy that He cannot hear nor HIS arm shortened that HE cannot save.

Helpless is the heart that in that instant of need knows not to whom it can cry out for help. When desperate, the believer, the Christian has only to call out to his/her Lord, God, to Jesus Christ.

1. Some of the shortest prayers are the most effectual ones.

- In the text, Peter cried our *"...Lord, save me..."*
 - Did Peter have a cause to cry out for help?
 - Didn't he get himself into the danger he was in?
 - Peter had deliberately left the safety of the boat.
 - He called out to the figure out on the water if he could come over there, so he then climbed over the side of the boat onto the water.

2. Peter's actions seemed a bit irrational, almost insane.

- Peter climbed out of the boat onto a stormy sea with strong winds tossing the waves all about the boat.
- In retrospect, one might admire Peter's obedience and deep devotion to the Lord.
- However, most of us are like the other 11 who also loved Jesus, but preferred to remain in the safety of the boat, rather than venture out on the tossing and uncertain waves.
- Most people (us) will not venture beyond sight and common sense because we are not fools nor fanatics.
- Most Christians "adventure" little for Jesus, even though they (we) know He is present in darkness and danger. We never know His strong hand as did Peter.
- Who can know Peter's feelings when he began to sink? Only those who have done about the same thing as Peter, doubt the Lord Jesus.

3. The disciples learned a lesson on deliverance by the hand of Jesus in *Matthew 4:35-41*

- The disciples were expert sailors, they were familiar with the sea, but in the severe storm, their skills and physical strengths were useless. Unless there be immediate help, all would be lost.
- In despair they turned to Jesus who was fast asleep at the front of the boat. They urgently asked Him for His help.
- *"...Carest thou not...?"* They had questions ever since Jesus had remained lying down when the storm came up. Finally they could stand it no longer and cried out to Him...
- Most of us are like the disciples. We are fair weather Christians who refresh ourselves in green pastures and beside the still waters, BUT when darkness deepens and danger rises, we wonder "why hasn't Jesus helped us by now?" "Doesn't He care?"
 - The Psalmist knew this as he wrote Psalm 77:2-9

4. Jesus can do the same for us today as He did for the disciples in the boat then.

- Jesus rose up from where He had been lying down and rebuked the winds and the sea.
"...PEACE, be still..."
- Jesus turned and asked *"...Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?"*
 - The Psalmist in Psalm 77:13, 14, 19
- Their cry of desperation turned into a song of deliverance.

CONCLUSION:

1. Sooner or later every one of us is going to have our faith tested. It may be by some deliberate act by us as it was with Peter or it may be by something that suddenly happens to us like the disciples in the boat and the storm came up suddenly. Our faith will be tested.
2. Danger, darkness, defeat and death are before us all and the cry of despair unto God brings His deliverance.
3. Hopefully we may be bold like Peter in willingly venturing out (stepping out) in acts for the Lord but unlike Peter, in knowing that Jesus is with us every step we take and is not afar off.
4. Remember Christian, the Lord cares for us and will be with us in all ups and downs in our lives.
 - Let us not hesitate to call upon our Lord for advice, for help, for deliverance, and yes, for forgiveness.