

Sunday, August 7, 2022

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is well aware of the storms that we encounter in our life and He has not, and will not, abandon us.

Title: Weathering the Storm...1

Series: Weathering the Storm

Text: Acts 27:13 – 26; Matthew 8:24

Introduction:

Our devotional on July 31 was entitled, "Ministry Gifts for Our Calling, Part 2", our text was Ephesians 4:1 - 16; we considered the last three of the five ministry gifts given by our Lord Christ Jesus:

1. The Evangelists;
2. The Shepherds (Pastors);
3. The Teachers

~ Today is the first installment of a two-part devotional on enduring through storms that may/will befall us.

~ James 1:2 – 4, *"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, (3) for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (4) And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."*

~ 1 Peter 4:12, *"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you."*

1. The Example of Paul in Acts 27:1 - 44:

~ vs. 29 – 30

~ vs. 31, *"Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, 'Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.'"*

~ vs. 43 – 44, *"But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, (44) and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land." (276)*

~ Have you learned, as I have, that you cannot escape the storms that God permits, they are allowed by him to build our character, be it: faith, hope, obedience, patience, trust, forgiveness, or any other Holy Spirit quality.

2. The Example of the Disciples in Matthew 8:23 - 27:

~ Consider the earlier events in Matthew 8 that the disciples had witnessed: vs. 1 – 4 a leper cleansed; vs. 5 – 13 healing of the centurion's servant; vs. 14 – 15 healing of Peter's mother-in-law; vs. 16 – 17 healing of many others

~ Now Jesus and the disciples board the boat

~ vs. 8:24 the boat is being swamped by a storm; and **WHAT IS JESUS DOING?**

~ Have you ever emotionally felt that you were sinking and Jesus is right there – SLEEPING!!!

~ It is so hard to do what you are able and then to **WAIT** on the Lord – who appears to be doing nothing!

~ Then verse 26 screams in my ear, *"Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm."*

3. The Example of Brother Merrill Womach:

~ Early in my walk with Christ I was introduced to a book entitled 'Tested by Fire' A true story of courage and faith

~ Thursday, November 23, 1961 Merrill was in a plane crash in Beaver Marsh, Oregon that left him with third degree burns on his hands and his entire head. This was a storm reality that he could not escape! At the time of this accident he was 34 years of age. He was in hospital for 50 weeks and underwent over 100 operations.

Inserts

~ A documentary film titled 'He Restoreth My Soul' was made about his accident and subsequent recovery. Merrill went to his heavenly home on December 28, 2014 at the age of 87

~ He was called the man with 42 voices.

~ "Ten Thousand Angels" by Merrill Womach

Conclusion:

1 Corinthians 10:13, *"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."*