

Faith, Over Fear

A message from our Lord!

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by

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As the storm of COVID-19 sweeps over our country (our globe, really) we are left to decide how we will ride out the storm. Will we feel secure because of who it is we travel with, or will the wind and the spray, the rocking and heaving of uncertainty cause us to fall prey to fear, in the midst of this storm.

The Apostle Matthew told how Jesus chose to teach His disciples why they should choose faith over fear; and He did it, right in the midst of the storm they were facing.

Matthew 8:23-26

²³Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵The disciples went and woke him, saying, *“Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”*

²⁶He replied, *“You of little faith, why are you so afraid?”* Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

I think many people relate to the disciple’s reaction to the storm, as Mark records the same incident in his Gospel.

Mark 4:38

³⁸But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “*Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?*”

And here we find ourselves in a storm of another flavor; and many cry out as they cower at home, “*Jesus, don't You care that we are perishing?*”

As I stated yesterday, I think we are wise to follow our governments instructions as they seek to mitigate the spread of this virus. We would not be acting in love for our fellow man – as if *we* knew better – to break faith with our fellow citizens, and fail to do our part in avoiding unnecessary inflation of the numbers of sick.

But we should be sitting at home in complete confidence in our Lord to carry the day. Who is sitting in your boat with you? Is it Jesus? Then ride the boat through the storm! Where is your confidence in Him?

Colossians 1:21-23

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies **in your minds** because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

My friends, the battle is in our hearts and minds. Our enemy would sow seeds of doubt and fear into our hearts. But we who have been drawn

near by the blood of Christ – the ‘reconciled’ of God – continue in our faith, established and firm, not moving from the hope held out in the gospel.

Once we were enemies of God because of our evil behavior. But now...
Abba’s children!

Let us continue to draw near to God. By faith, let’s run the race we learned about in Hebrews 12 where we read:

Hebrews 12:1-3

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Whenever you find yourself overwhelmed by life, you always have two choices: you can focus on your circumstances, or fix your eyes on Jesus.

If you choose to look to Jesus above everything else, you will begin to see that the storms you face are not nearly as powerful as the Savior choosing to walk through the storm alongside you.

In the days ahead; bless, and be blessed as you exercise faith over fear.

Prayer

Father God, we thank you for the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit. Just remembering Your promises to us, brings us peace. **Hebrews 13:5**

⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, for God has said:

“Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.”

Never, Lord; we believe. We confess our great need for more of Jesus in our hearts, souls, minds, and spirits. Continue to do a good work in us; through Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.