

THE PERFECT STORM

John 6:15-21

June 24, 2007. Sunday A.M.

INTRODUCTION

- A. In 2000, George Clooney starred in a movie called, "*The Perfect Storm*." The movie is based on a true story. The storm in question occurred on November 4, 1991 off the coast of Gloucester, Mass. The six man crew of the *Andrea Gail*, a 70-foot sword fishing boat went down with the ship after being stranded hundreds of miles offshore and fighting 100 foot waves and hurricane force winds.
- B. The Gospel of John records a true story about another perfect storm (John 6:15-21). This time the crew were Jesus' disciples and they were out on the Sea of Galilee alone because Jesus remained on shore during the night to pray.
- C. Although many of you may have lived through tornadoes, most of us have never experienced storms like the one off shore of Gloucester, Mass. , or the one on the Sea of Galilee.
 1. But most everyone in this room has experienced inner storms which are as intense and destructive as any hurricane or tornado. And if not us, then someone we love has experienced such a storm.
 2. In John's gospel, Jesus calmed the storm raging in the lives of His disciples.
 3. The Bible tells us Jesus wants to do the same for us.
 4. Let's examine this story and see three truths about the storms of life.

I. First, Storms Are Intensified During The Darkness Of Night.

- A. I don't know what it is about darkness, but it seems that's when children are most ill; when a crisis is at its worst; when despair is at its peak. It must have seemed that way, too, for the disciples (vv. 16-17).
- B. Keep two things in mind, though, when you find yourself in the darkness of a storm.
 1. First, never make life changing decisions in the midst of a crisis. It's easy to lose your perspective about reality when you're caught in the dark. Some of the worst decisions people make are made in the midst of the storm due to panic.
 2. Second, if you will just hang on a little longer you will eventually see the storm clouds roll away (Psalm 30:5). Storms and crises don't last forever.

II. Second, Storms Often Hide The Presence Of God In Our Lives.

- A. We might as well admit it. No matter how great one's faith in God is, there are times when it seems impossible to see or hear Him.
- B. The suspense of the movie "*The Perfect Storm*" was heightened by the fact that the "*Andrea Gail*" lost radio contact when they were in the midst of the storm.
- C. The disciples thought they had lost contact too, because Jesus was still on shore while they were in the middle of the sea (v. 15).
- D. Although, it may sometimes feel as though we have lost contact with God, that's never the case. In Mark's version of this story, Jesus was watching His disciples throughout the night (Mark 6:48a). He is watching us too, even when we can't see Him.

III. Third, Storms Actually Bring God Into Our Lives IF WE LET THEM.

- A. It was the storm that brought Jesus to the disciples (vv. 19-20).
- B. Remember two things when the storms are raging in your life.
 1. First, Jesus isn't very far from you. Don't be deceived into thinking that because you are going through a storm that God is uncaring, unwilling or unable to help you. The opposite is true.
 2. Second, the solution to your problem is much closer than you think.
 - a. The disciples were closer to shore than they thought. The Sea of Galilee is only about four miles wide. Verse 19 says they rowed three and a half miles. They were close to the shore but didn't realize it (v. 21 "immediately the boat reached the shore".)

Some of you are in a howling gale but you are closer to the other side than you may realize. Don't let the devil convince you the other side is impossible to reach.

- b. The disciples were also closer to dawn than they thought they were. Back in Mark's account of this story, he says Jesus came to them during the fourth watch (Mark 6:48b). This was the last watch of the night, just before morning.
- c. This reminds me of the song, "Just When I Need Him"

CONCLUSION

- A. The Perfect Storm is the perfect time to trust God to see you through-Isa 43:2-3a.
- B. Remember His words when the storms of life are beating against you (v. 20).