

Verses 37-38: And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "**Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?**"

a) *"We obeyed you, and now, this storm?"*

Verse 35-36: On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was.

Takeaway:

Obeying Jesus does not promise a storm free, comfortable, smooth sailing life. In fact, Jesus seems to even be leading them into the storm!

b) *"How could you be sleeping on us?"*

Verse 37-38: And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. **But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.**

Understanding Jesus sleeping in the boat:

- a. Jesus sleeping shows us that He is not worried.
- b. Jesus sleeping tests and grows their faith.

"When Christ sleeps, it is not from neglect but to stir up their prayers and show them their weakness."

- John Calvin

3 Thoughts to Watch out for When Storms Come Our Way:

Thought #2: "If I have enough faith..."

Verses 39-40: 39 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Beware of a "works-based" faith in disguise:

This is when faith becomes a *transactional form of currency* where we think that the quantity and/or quality of our faith will shield us from storms.

This approach brings guilt, fear, and shame:

1. My hardship is my fault.
2. What if my faith isn't enough next time?
3. Real Christians shouldn't suffer like I do.

Consider:

Paul suffered not because of a *lack of faith* but because of his *obedience*.

Jesus, who was perfect and sinless and faithful, experienced suffering in a way that none of us can fathom or imagine.

3 Thoughts to Watch out for When Storms Come Our Way:

Thought #3: We fear the storm more than God or anything else.

Verse 37: And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.

Takeaways:

1. What we fear the most reveals what we worship.
2. That which we fear the most (misplaced worship) makes us slaves. Something else has inordinate power and influence that only God should have.

“What you fear most reveals where you trust God the least.”

– Tim Keller

Summary: 3 Thoughts to Watch out for When Storms Come Our Way:

- 1) We doubt God’s love and care for us.
- 2) “If I have enough faith...”
- 3) We fear the storm more than God or anything else.

Addressing the **3 Thoughts** with the Truths of Scripture and the Hope of the Gospel

Addressing Thought #1:

(1 of 2) When you’re doubting God’s love and care, look to the cross (Romans 5:8).

In the storm, God may seem silent, but the cross is where God speaks loudly and clearly!

Addressing Thought #1:

(2 of 2) When you're doubting God's love and care for you, remember Jesus is with you in the boat.

We may struggle with why Jesus does not stop the storm, but He will never abandon you in the boat.

Psalm 46:1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Matthew 28:20: "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

"God is too good to be unkind and too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace his hand, we must trust his heart."

- Charles Spurgeon

Addressing Thought #2: "If I have enough faith..."

Our faith isn't the means of controlling God (and getting the outcome we want) but the response of trusting Him.

Biblical faith:

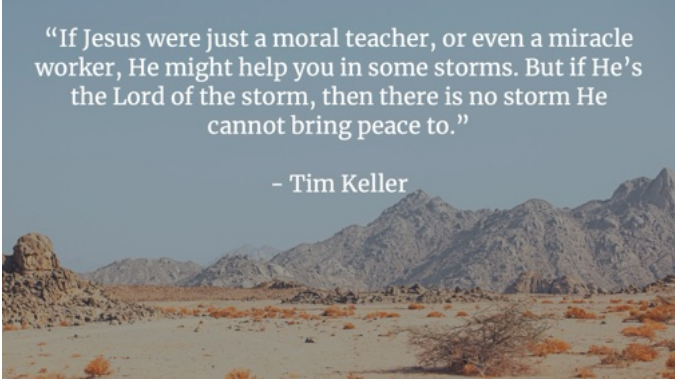
- 1) Trusts God in suffering and not just for deliverance from it.
- 2) Clings to **Jesus** as our righteousness, not our "faith" as our righteousness.
- 3) Realizes suffering as a context in which God shapes and grows us, not punish us.



Addressing Thought #3:

(1 of 3) When you find yourself fearing the storm more than God, remember that Jesus is the Lord of the Storm.

Verse 39: And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.



"If Jesus were just a moral teacher, or even a miracle worker, He might help you in some storms. But if He's the Lord of the storm, then there is no storm He cannot bring peace to."

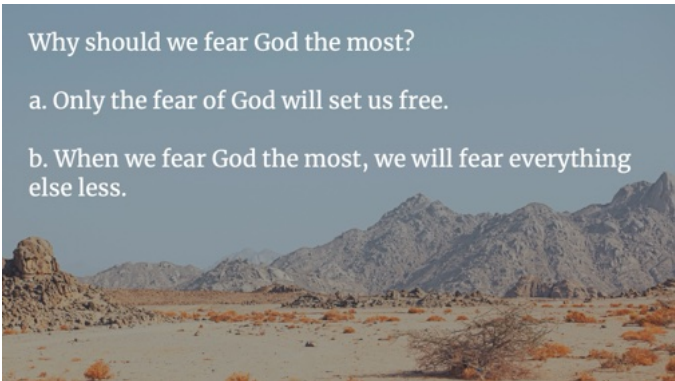
- Tim Keller



Addressing Thought #3:

(2 of 3) Instead of fearing the storm the most, we need to fear God the most.

Verse 41: And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"



Why should we fear God the most?

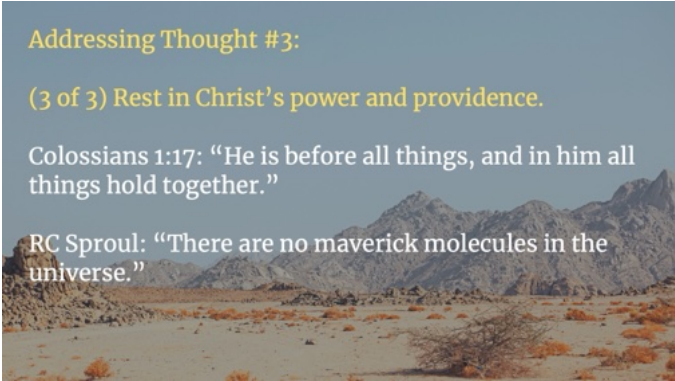
- a. Only the fear of God will set us free.
- b. When we fear God the most, we will fear everything else less.



A Quote and a Verse:

Charles Spurgeon: "He who fears God has nothing else to fear."

Psalm 112:1,7: "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord... He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord."

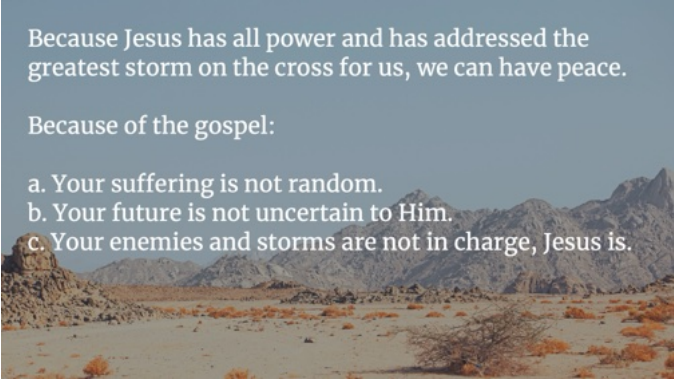


Addressing Thought #3:

(3 of 3) Rest in Christ's power and providence.

Colossians 1:17: "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

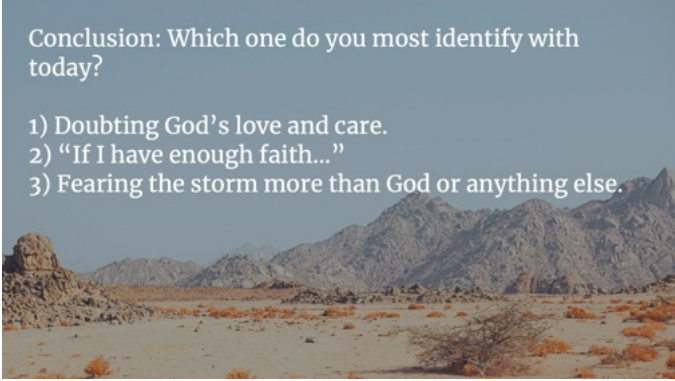
RC Sproul: "There are no maverick molecules in the universe."



Because Jesus has all power and has addressed the greatest storm on the cross for us, we can have peace.

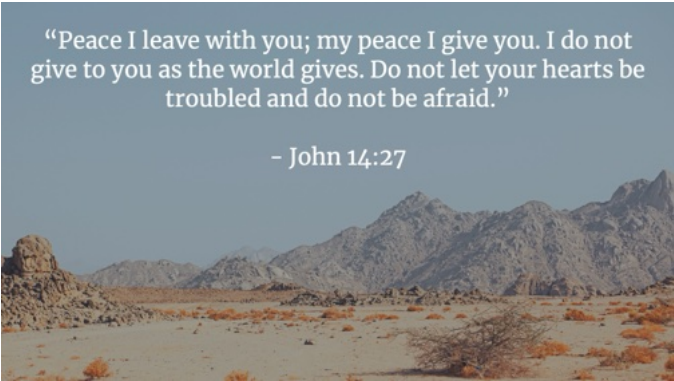
Because of the gospel:

- a. Your suffering is not random.
- b. Your future is not uncertain to Him.
- c. Your enemies and storms are not in charge, Jesus is.



Conclusion: Which one do you most identify with today?

- 1) Doubting God's love and care.
- 2) "If I have enough faith..."
- 3) Fearing the storm more than God or anything else.



"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

- John 14:27