

## Storm or No Storm

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For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength Isaiah 30:15a

It probably seemed like just another ordinary day. The disciples loaded what little gear they carried with them onto a small ship and set out to sea. Without too much effort we can easily imagine them finding a place to sit aboard their vessel and quietly discussing the places that they were sailing towards and the faces that they anticipated seeing. Many of these men were very comfortable out on the water.

Prior to making the decision to follow Christ several of them had grown up in and around the fishing business.

When the storm hit, it hit them hard. The Amplified Bible says that it was a storm of hurricane proportion. When the force of the winds and the power of the waves convinced the disciples they were about to die, they forgot one very important factor: Jesus was in the boat and he had told them that they were going to the other side (Mark 4:35). His Word never fails!

I'm certain that these men attempted to deal with their situation on their own as best they could. As I previously stated, they weren't newcomers to the water.

They probably utilized every ounce of training that they had received growing up and being trained upon the water, to no avail. Once they exhausted all of their efforts, it finally occurred to them. "Somebody needs to wake up Jesus!"

He got up, rebuked the wind and the sea, and everything became completely calm again. As long as the disciples assumed full control of their situation, Jesus rested. But once they turned and cast their cares his way and released control to Him, He cared for them and allowed them to rest. We care ... He rests.

When it comes to dealing with the storms of life, we're very much like the disciples. We attempt to utilize all of our training and our own level of understanding to deal with both the winds and the waves that rise up to beat upon our boat. It is too easy to allow ourselves to embrace the idea that we know what we're doing!

Whether it's in business situations or right in our own homes, it is difficult to surrender ourselves to His control. His ways are not our ways and understanding His thoughts isn't always as easy as it sounds, either.

We have a tendency to believe that we can handle it... right up until the inside of our boat resembles the inward parts of a dunk tank, that is. We find ourselves swimming in a torrent of chaos and confusion and we, like the disciples, forget who is in our boat and where He said He was taking us.

Our enemies attack isn't against our abilities or our intellect, but against our confidence. The devil will attempt anything he can think of that will enable him to rip from our grip our willingness to surrender full control to our God. Remember, the only thing that possesses the power to sink our faith is the second thought.

He Cares ... We Rest!

The greatest lesson we can learn from the storm is this: In God We Trust! When we allow God to take His position we are suddenly free to step into our correct position. Ours is the position of perfect peace. "In rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength!" These words from Isaiah 30 hold tremendous revelation, if we can wrap our mind around them.

The storm is simply a tool that the enemy uses to get us to shift focus. Our minds are telling us to work and fight, but the Word is telling us to rest! Our brain is screaming in horror and causing us to worry while the Word is suggesting that we keep our peace and stay confident. As long as we trust in God the storm remains powerless in our life. We know where we're going and this isn't it! So we just keep on sailing—gently speaking His Word to our situation. We don't need to shout, even though shouting feels good. We just speak peace and keep on sailing \_ storm or no storm. None of these things move us!

Stay calm and keep your confidence. God isn't going to fail you!

We believe in you\_

Pastors Thom and Shelby