



Sunday, August 26, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Matthew 14:22-33

C.S. Lewis once said, “God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, and shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” That seems to be an accurate summary of our experience, doesn’t it? To be sure, God is not the author of evil, but He does allow suffering in our lives—often to confirm in our hearts and minds our limitations and dependence upon Him. It’s the same reason Paul, who endured a “thorn in the flesh” for many years, was given the answer, “my grace is sufficient for you; my power is perfected in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9).

And yet, these assurances don’t take the pain away. Pain and suffering linger in our lives from various sources and, for some, never seem to go away. Yet these assurances do give us a purpose, to remind us that our suffering is not meaningless. And they give us respite, that we know to Whom we can turn when we are in need. Jesus prays for us in the midst of our suffering and He promises to be with us and draw near to us, provided we draw near to Him (James 4).

Context

Immediately preceding this passage, the crowd (exceeding five thousand), which had recently been fed, was eagerly pushing for Jesus to assume political control of the nation. Jesus knew that that wasn’t going to provide the necessary means of salvation. He knew that He had to go to the cross to pay the penalty for our sin and secure our salvation. So, in sending the disciples away, He keeps a safe distance between them and the crowd so that the influence of the crowd won’t sway them and so that He might demonstrate His power and His presence in the midst of the storms of life.

Therefore, this story provides great comfort and hope to those who heed its words.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“A Tough Night at Sea”

Read Matthew 14:22-33

Why did Jesus send His disciples to sea?

1. People wanted to make Him king (John 6:14-15)
2. Jesus wanted to soften their hearts (Mark 6:52)

What does Jesus do to help us?

1. He prays for us!
2. He comes to us!
3. He teaches us!

Trials

In the end, the trials in our lives are intended to leave us
WORSHIPPING

Discuss

- 1) What kinds of trials have you had to endure in your life?
- 2) What is it that causes us to question or doubt God during our trials?
- 3) How has God ministered to you in the midst of your trials? What are some specific truths or promises in the Bible that we should cling to during times of suffering?
- 4) How have others ministered to you in your trials?
- 5) How can we better minister to one another when we face trials of various kinds?