

"IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL"

I am sitting in an empty sanctuary. Here I am reminded again that the church is not bricks and mortar, but rather the church is the people of God, right now scattered. I am sitting here hopeful that one day soon, these pews will be full of the church gathered for praise and worship and instruction.

Today, I want to take you to one of my favorite texts in the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew 8:23 where we read the account of the day Jesus calmed the storm. This narration is one of the first ones I heard growing up in Sunday School. I learned the lesson, "Jesus has great power." But it was not until I studied it as an adult that I understood the challenge of Jesus to my faith particularly when I find myself navigating through one of life's storms. The text tells us, "Then He got into a boat and his disciples followed him." (**Matthew 8:23**)

Note the following:

- **"Without warning"** This crisis came out of nowhere. It was sudden.
- **"A furious storm came up on the lake"** This was not a gentle summer rain. This was wind and waves and thunder and lightning.
- **"So that the waves swept over the boat"** The Greek verb tense explains that the waves just kept coming, over and over and over again. No relief. No rest. The news was bad, and the news continued to be bad.
- **"But Jesus was sleeping"** Really? How could he be sleeping at a time like this?
- **The disciples went and woke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"** Grab a bucket Jesus. Pick up an oar. WE'RE GOING DOWN!

Now, I am convinced that the only thing the disciples expected Jesus to do was to help them get things under control. They were not expecting Him to do what He eventually did. It is the next verse that is shocking to me. While the waves were still crashing and the boat was still rocking and the wind was still blowing... while all of this was going on, the Bible says, "**He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" (8:26).**" Jesus rebukes them for being afraid when all this chaos is taking place all around them. If I were there, I would have said back, "Why are we so afraid?" "Can't you see?" "We are going down!"

It is the order of the events and the timing of the rebuke in Matthew's account that is so very significant. Jesus rebukes them and He rebukes everyone of us for our anxieties and fears during the storms *while the storm is still raging!* Why? Because

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

by: Pastor Ken

when He is with you, no matter what, IT IS WELL WITH YOUR SOUL. YOU ARE OK! HE IS AWARE OF THE EVENTS THAT ARE UNFOLDING. HE WILL HOLD YOU FAST.

After the rebuke of the disciples, He then rebuked the wind and the waves, and it was completely calm.

Regardless of the effects of the storm hitting you right now, if you have confessed your sin and determined to follow Jesus, then He is with you in the boat. **It is well with your soul. It is time to demonstrate your faith.**

“And the men marveled, saying, “What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”

Matthew 8:27

In Christ,

Pastor Ken

QUESTIONS:

1. Identify the ‘waves hitting your boat’ right now. How are you demonstrating your faith when they hit?
2. Remember the past storms in your life. What is your testimony regarding how the Lord kept you during them?



Hampton Falls
BAPTIST CHURCH