



Life Group Study Notes

Bethel's Discipleship Path: The Storms of Life

Pastor James Lowe – September 23, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What kinds of storms are you facing in your life?
- What have you been placing your trust in to overcome these storms?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at: www.bethelworld.org

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

"There are storms that God has designed in your life to grow you"

-James Lowe-

We will face many storms in life. Sometimes we create our own difficult circumstances through bad life choices. Sometimes we face challenges because of the bad choices of people around us. In this story Jesus sends the disciples into a storm designed to build their character and faith. It is in these moments that we have to remember the God we serve. No matter where the storm comes from we serve a God who can calm the storm. Ultimately God wants to grow us and build His character into our lives so that the Bible we read becomes the life we live. As the disciples found themselves in the midst of a storm they saw Jesus calmly walking on the water. When Peter saw Jesus He got out of the boat and began to do what he saw Jesus doing. When Peter kept his eyes on Jesus he was able to walk on water. As Peter became distracted by the wind and the waves he took his eyes off of Jesus and began to sink. Immediately Jesus grabbed Peter's hand, and lifted him out of the water. As Jesus stepped onto the boat the storm was calmed.

Just like Peter we can either walk on water, or sink. Jesus is calling us to be just like Him. As we passionately pursue God we will learn to trust in the Lord and overcome the very storms that threaten to overwhelm our lives. Through every storm that God takes us we learn valuable lessons. Therefore keep your eyes on Christ, call out to Jesus, and trust God in the midst of every trial. As we trust God we learn to enjoy the process, and recognize every trial as an opportunity to exercise our faith and press into God.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What kind of difficult circumstances has God taken you through?
- In what ways has God developed your character by using a storm?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray to lay down our burdens at the feet of Jesus when facing difficult storms.
- Pray to grow in confidence with respect to the process God uses to form His character in us.