

Mark 6 verses 45-51 In the Midst of the Storm

Ec 3:15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

Right after feeding 5,000 in each text.

Mt 14:22-27; 22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. 23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. 24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. 27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

Mr 6:45-51; 45 And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. 46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray. 47 And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. 48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them. 49 But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: 50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid. 51 And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

Joh 6:15-21; 15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. 16 And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea, 17 And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. 18 And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. 19 So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. 20 But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. 21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.

Jesus constrained his disciples to sail upon the sea to go over to the other side. Indicating to us; when Jesus has called us to be his disciples; we are to join the church of Salvation by Grace, we are to take up our cross, and proclaim we are the saved by the grace of God.

"48 And he saw them toiling in rowing;" They are in the midst of the sea and Christ is on the shore and sees them through the tempest. Christ is on the shore, so to speak, in the eternal heaven looking down on us and seeing us toiling in the struggles of living the Christian life.

"for the wind was contrary." They were struggling, to do what their master commanded against a contrary wind, just as we today struggle, to do what our master has commanded against a contrary wind, which is described in: **2Co 10:3-5; 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down**

of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; The devil has sent forth his own, so called, gospel, which is not the gospel. This is a contrary wind, to the true doctrine of the church of Salvation by Grace, which was established by Christ, and founded upon his word of truth. Our struggle is to know the truth of Christ, and to keep the lies of satan separate.

"they see Jesus walking on the sea," Scripture does not tell us this, as I read these text, however, scripture teaches that Christ is the creator of all things. Do you believe that the sea was boisterous or tempestuous, or contrary, to Jesus as he walked upon the water? In my mind, I see a perfectly smooth pathway for the creator as he walks upon the water. The sea is raging all around him, but where he is, I believe the sea is still and calm.

"and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them" The 4th watch would have been just before the dawning of the day, which is a prophetic picture; that Jesus was going to bring to light, by revelation, the age of salvation by grace, which was the dawning of a new day, a new age in time.

Jesus came to the disciples in the midst of the storm in the sea. They were there because Jesus had commanded them to go. This is a picture of the saved by grace, the people of God, sailing upon the sea of life in the ship of Salvation by Grace. We are commanded by Christ to be about the Father's business in this world by sowing seed, living in faith, and publishing how great things the Lord has done for us, but; in going about the Father's business, we have an adversary, who will make every step of the way hard, even if we are focused on Christ. In this world you "shall" have trials, troubles, and tribulations.

The sacrificial and ceremonial law service served its purpose, but all the sacrifices did not bring God any pleasure, because of the failure of mankind to keep the law service fully. It, in and of itself, was making no progress in the bringing about of salvation by grace. The same is true for the individual sinner. We toil and row in our own strength until Jesus comes to us, causes us to be born again, and brings us to the place he has told us to go to, the church of Salvation by Grace.

"50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid." The disciples had only made about one-half of the trip Jesus sent them on, when Jesus came to them, walking upon the sea. When they saw Jesus, they were afraid and Jesus spoke to them **"Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid."** This is what he preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ does for us today.

In the beginning, it was the breath of Christ that made man a living soul. Man, in the hour of temptation, yielded to temptation, disobeyed God, and became a spiritually, dead soul. The only deliverance, from this dead and alienated state is being born again. When we are born again; we can hear the voice of Jesus saying; **"Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid."** I have sent the Holy Spirit to dwell with you, which will give you companionship upon the journey set before you. I give you release from the burden of death for sin. I give to you peace that passeth understanding, as seen in: **Php 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

Did you notice? The storm didn't calm until Jesus got in the boat. I tell you today, if Jesus does not enter into your heart, and soul, with his Holy Spirit presence, there will be no calm and no peace in

your life. Without the new birth; we will never experience the peace of God that passeth understanding.

When Jesus entered the ship; they immediately reached their destination. When we are born again, by the grace of God, we are immediately given eternal life, and shall reach the destination God set for us, on the other side.

As Christ's disciples were struggling upon the sea, so the fulfillment of the sacrificial law was struggling in the hands and works of mankind. Jesus's coming to earth caused a great wind and tempest upon the seas of life. The announcement that the Messiah had come was the message that spread abroad; and wherever it was published it caused a great stir of controversy.

We see; the devil immediately went to work trying to overthrow Christ. First he tried to kill baby Jesus, and later we see his temptation of Christ. We see; as Christ began to building the church and gathering a larger following, which took the glory and power from the Scribes and Pharisees, who dominated the law service, it set in motion the contrary wind of satan, in his effort to destroy Christ. The devil stirred up the heart of Israel, God's people on earth, to bring about the death of Christ.

The Israelites (Scribes and Pharisees) had become sure; they could save themselves through the works of the ceremonial, and sacrificial, law services. Blinded minds do not see a need for God, and reject Christ; the one, true, sinless, sacrifice, which the sacrificial law demanded for the remission of sins. The terribleness, of this storm, is the wind of satan blowing forth to mankind, and convincing them they don't need God.

Remember the opening text: "***Ec 3:15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.***" As the first coming of Christ caused a great, contrary, wind that blew upon the sea of life, which led to his crucifixion; so will his second coming cause a great contrary wind. As the age, of Salvation by Grace, advances; we see that great, contrary, wind, of the devil's false doctrine spreading over the whole world, in his rebellion against God, and his desire to overcome Christ. This will continue to happen until the 2nd coming, of Christ into the world, at the end of time.

Christ will come a 2nd time. When he comes the church, all of God's people, will immediately be at the destination. "***and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.***" This gives us the picture of the resurrection of the dead, and the surety of our transport to the eternal kingdom, which Christ has gone to prepare for us. Another time; when the disciples of Christ were struggling against the sea in the midst of a storm; Jesus said to his disciples in: ***Mr 4:39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*** At the resurrection of God's people; we will finally experience true peace and understand.

Think about the eternal peace, which will be accomplished, when Christ speaks and the bodies, of the dead in Christ, are raised immortal and incorruptible, and the bodies, of we which are alive and remain, shall be changed; from corruptible to incorruptible, and from mortal to immortal. Christ will come, speak peace to us, and we shall experience the peace that passeth understanding, forever, and will immediately be at our eternal destination. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

Elder Clarke Lee, 03-07-2021