

Corona Virus (COVID-19) Response

Week 2: 3/22/20

Title: "Eye of The Storm: An Answer"

Text: Mark 4:35-41

Speaker: Mike McCormick

Description: "COVID-19 has plunged the world into a chaotic storm threatening our very way of life. During this time, we must draw near to The Way, The Truth, and The Life in order to find peace and discover ways to be connected, compassionate, contributing, and courageous during this crisis. Today, we find clarity, understanding, and opportunity as we venture into the eye of the storm."

JUMP START!

1. What stood out to you from today's service? Was there any moment or element of the service you found particularly moving, thought-provoking or inspiring? Explain.

A CLOSER LOOK:

1. Read **Mark 4:35-41**. How do you picture the disciples' faces in these verses? Which would frighten you more - the storm or Jesus' response?
2. Read **Luke 8:22-25**, **Matthew 8:23-27**. Compare and contrast these two passages with **Mark 4:35-41**. What similarities and differences do you see?
3. Read **Mark 4:26-34** and **Mark 5:1**. Do these two passages affect your understanding of **Mark 4:35-41**? What do they reveal about the nature of faith? What do they reveal about your faith? Explain.
4. The Greek word for "Faith" used in **Mark 4:35-41** is "Pistis". In general, it implies such a **knowledge of, assent to, and confidence in** certain Divine truths, especially those of the Gospel, as produces good works. What Gospel truths form the foundation of faith? Are you confident in them? How do they affect your response to the storm? What good works result? Explain.

A DEEPER CONVERSATION:

1. If you had been one of the disciples when the boat was about to sink, what would you have done?
2. As time goes on, have you seen improvement in the way you handle the storms of life? What difference does your faith in Christ make?
3. "Quiet! Be still!" If Jesus were to speak these words to us today, what would they mean? How should we respond? How would you respond? Share.
4. Why did Jesus allow a storm to come up in the first place? Was there a purpose? Is there a purpose to our current trial? Explain.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORM:

Encouraging words, comforting words, inspiring words...they always seem to give us strength in the midst of difficult and trying times. May these words be of help as together we journey through to the other side, beyond the storm and into the light of a new day:

YELLOW TREE

*Yellow tree against a gray-blue sky
Always bending, yet I wonder,
Did you ever try just once to hold fast
When swirling winds rush past?
To stiffen your limbs that they not give way
To an angry gust?
You must enjoy the storm
As you stand amidst great harm.
Should you not be strong?
Tell me, dear tree,
Why do your branches bend?
"A simple truth, dear friend,"
Said the tree.
"My Creator crafted me to know
When to give and when to take,
And to praise and thank Him
That my branches don't break."*