

## Morning Worship

October 14, 2018

Worship Leader — Don Beavers      Piano —

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

## Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Don/People

Hymn # 426      *Victory in Jesus*      Don/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

## Joy and Triumph Medley

#428 *Ring the Bells of Heaven*

## #429 *All that Thrills My Soul*

## #430 *Sunshine in My Soul*

## Offering Prayer John Lewis

## Offering Music

## Children's Worship (Children are dismissed)

Message *God Speaks Through Circumstances* Allan Lane

Hymn #311 *Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart* Don/People

Closing Chorus # 430 *Sunshine in My Soul*      Don/People

# **God Speaks through Circumstances**

## Matthew 14:22-33

This is the second storm recorded in Matthew's Gospel. In Matthew 8 Jesus was asleep in the boat and the disciples woke Him up crying, "Master, we perish!" That could have been called "The Storm before the Calm."

At least Jesus was present in that storm, but this time He's nowhere to be found. His presence is not apparent. We all go through storms where it seems God is not in it, and cannot be reached. What do you do then? Allow me to share some assurances with you today to remind us that God speaks through our circumstances/storms of life.

## **1. Jesus allows the storm. Verse 22**

**Jesus has allowed this storm to be.**

The word used to describe Jesus' persuasion ("constrained" in some translations) in getting the disciples into the boat is a strong word which means to compel or to drive.

The disciples wanted to stay where they were after the great miracle of the loaves and fishes they had just been a part of, but Jesus made them leave.

Perhaps like the Boy Scout was late for troop meeting. When questioned about his tardiness he explained that he was doing his good deed for the day. "I spent a good while helping an old lady across the street." His scoutmaster replied, "Why would that take so long?" The boy answered, "She didn't want to cross the street!"

Jesus constrained them knowing their course would intersect a great storm. We know now that had they stayed they would have been tempted to ride His coattails and never leave His side. We are all attracted to power but Jesus wanted the disciples to be able to stand on their own, even without His presence. He proved He could walk on water, but wanted to show them they could do the same through faith. The point is that sometimes God will send us into a storm of testing, and at the same time He is delivering us from a storm of temptation. He may be sparing you from something worse you could not foresee.

You see, God is more concerned with our spiritual growth than our personal comfort. He loves us just as we are, but He loves us too much to leave us that way. He sees down the road and He is molding us in His image step by step. In the first storm He was present, in the second storm He proved to be there, but they couldn't see Him at first. Peter learned to look to Jesus, even when he couldn't see Him.

Jesus knew that down the road Peter would one day be crucified upside down, and John will be boiled in a cauldron of oil, James will be beheaded in Jerusalem, Luke will hang from an olive tree in Greece, Mark will be dragged to death in the streets of Alexandria, and so on. So Jesus takes us all through a gradual process of bigger and bigger storms along our journey.

The disciples may have been scared to death, but in the end they realized they went through this storm not because they were out of God's will, but because they were IN His will. Some storms are for **correction** as in the case of Jonah. Some are for **perfection** such as in this storm.

The first assurance we have in the storm is that Jesus has allowed this storm to be.

## **2. Jesus is praying for you. Verses 23-34**

When we are in the place of peril, Jesus is in the place of prayer. What a contrast between their two locations. The Gospel of Mark says that Jesus could see them toiling in rowing. He's on this mountain overlooking the Sea of Galilee and He can see the storm and the disciples in it. They can't see Jesus, but He can see them. And the Bible says that Jesus ever liveth to make intercession for us. He isn't surprised by what comes upon us. He's there watching and praying for us.

A little boy got in trouble and his mother disciplined him. He was mad at his mom for this. At bedtime he knelt with his mother by his bedside and asked God to bless daddy, sissy, and bubby, his dog, cat, fish, and friends, but not his mother. At the end of the prayer he smirked at his mom and said, "I guess you noticed you weren't in it."

The good news for us today is that no matter what we've done against Him, Jesus is praying, and we're in His prayers.

Assurance #1 is that Jesus allowed this storm to be. Assurance #2 is that Jesus is praying for us.

## **3. Jesus comes in His time . Verses 25-27**

Jesus will come to you in His own time. The 4th watch of the night is between 3 AM and dawn. It's the darkest part of the night. Now some Liberals want to say the disciples actually saw Jesus walking on the shore, and like a mirage they imagined He was walking on the water. But the Bible says they were in the midst of the sea, perhaps miles from the shore, in the darkest part of the night. Don't you wish the

liberals would spend as much time in prayer or serving in the church as they spend concocting such nonsense!

I'm just simple enough to believe that Jesus walked on the water just as the Bible says. I believe that every drop of water in that sea somehow bonded together to uphold the lovely Son of God. I believe that gravity itself answers to Jesus, and that this great miracle was a small thing for Him.

A little girl met her newborn baby brother, just home from the hospital. Momma taught her how to support the head, but of course she had to test why that is. Somebody asked her how she liked her new brother. She said, "He's ok, but his head's not screwed on right."

And now you know how I feel about liberal theologians who are no better, who cause God's people to doubt the truth of God and His Word. In Matthew 23 Jesus talked a lot about the religious authorities of His day who were masking error as truth. Jesus confronts their error by telling the crowd, "They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger" (Matthew 23:4). The stroke of a pen can cause a whole lot of damage for generations to come. We have allowed false teachers to get away with writing things, signing things, approving things that have led society away from God.

Why did Jesus come to them in this way? In part it was to show them that what they feared the most was under His control. The waves that were over their heads were under His feet...and I don't care what storm you are going through, whether financial, family, emotional or physical. He's on top of it!

**What you fear the most may actually bring you closer to Jesus.** That raging sea was nothing but a sidewalk that brought Jesus closer to them, and could bring them closer to Jesus if they would get out of the boat in faith.

They thought it was ghost at first. Like the two security guards who worked at a hospital morgue. It was an eerie place as you can imagine. The first asked, "Do you believe in ghosts?" The second replied, "No, but I'm a-scared of 'em!"

It looked like things couldn't get worse in this storm, and now here comes a ghost. Why would they think it is a ghost? They were living in fear instead of living by faith. Faith would have assumed it was Christ. They should have recognized the One Who just worked the great miracle before their eyes on the hillside. But since they couldn't see Him, they didn't believe. They needed to learn that faith is believing in something you CAN'T see.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." When something happens in our lives we might say, "I don't see how God is in this." Exactly! What a great opportunity to exercise faith.

Had they not already seen Jesus calm a storm before? Did not the waves lie down peacefully like a whipped pup? They had good reason to believe in faith during this storm and so do you. Don't let your imagination run wild with paranoia. The devil works in the realm of the mind. Don't live in fear, live by faith.

We can be assured that Jesus allows storms to be for a reason, and He is praying for us, and will come to us in His own time.

#### **4. Storms help us grow . Verses 28-31**

On that boat that night was the **loud but lovable Simon Peter**. What must the others have thought of him as he began to step out? "Boy, he's pulled some crazy stunts in his day, but this is just too much." As he confidently jumped out his feet landed on water that must have felt like concrete. Can you imagine how fun that would be?

It's easy to criticize him for taking His eyes off the Lord and sinking, but at least he got out of the boat. The church today is filled w/ 'boat people', but there is a great need for water walkers. We need risk takers who make attempts, who try and fail, and get back up again. We need a big challenge. If we aim at nothing we're sure to hit it!

For the record, I believe it's good that Peter sank. After all, we know his pride sometimes got in the way. Could you imagine living with him if he had not? He would have been the Barney Fife of the New Testament! He would have started a church and called it "Water Walker Baptist Temple!"

### **Conclusion**

God is not looking for perfection, just for someone to get out of the boat and try something once in a while. How about you? Ever been out on church visitation? Would you give it a try? Ever witnessed to someone? Will you give it a go? Have you been taking the first 10% out of your paycheck and setting it aside for the Lord before paying all your bills? Are you willing to make an attempt and see if it's really true that you can't out give God?

Peter learned a lot that day about himself and about the Lord. He learned that when fears rise, faith dies. He learned to keep His eyes on Jesus and not on the storm. With that advice you too can be a water walker. Fear is looking at God through your circumstances, but faith is looking at your circumstances through God's eyes. We need to live above the circumstances, not under them.

Your storm may be for correction or for perfection, but Jesus allowed it to be, and allowed your paths to cross. And while you are in the place of peril, Jesus is in the place of prayer. He may seem far away, but He'll come to you in His own time, and He'll use this storm to increase your faith.

### ***When Fears Rise, Faith Dies!***

## **Forgiven Throughout the Universe**

This week the "Ping Poll" section of the newspaper asked the question, "Did we fake the moon landing?" 21% said yes while 79% said no. I personally believe Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the first men to walk on the moon in the Apollo 11 space mission. Michael Collins, third member of the group, was in charge of the command module, essential for their return to earth, which circled the moon while Armstrong and Aldrin landed. The moon lander touched down at 3:17 EST, Sunday, July 20, 1969.

What you may not know was that Aldrin had brought with him a tiny communion kit, given him by his church that had a silver chalice and wine vial about the size of the tip of his finger. During the morning he radioed, "Houston, this is Eagle. This is the LM pilot speaking. I would like to request a few moments of silence. I would like to invite each person listening in, whoever or wherever he may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the last few hours, and to give thanks in his own individual way."

"In the radio blackout," he wrote later, "I opened the little plastic packages which contained the bread and the wine. I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon, the wine slowly curled and gracefully came up the side of the cup. Then I read the Scripture, 'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whosoever abides in me will bring forth much fruit.'"

"I had intended to read my communion passage back to earth, but at the last minute Deke Slayton had requested that I not do this. NASA was already embroiled in a legal battle with

Madelyn Murray O'Hare, the celebrated opponent of religion, over the Apollo 8 crew reading from Genesis while orbiting the moon at Christmas. I agreed reluctantly..."

"Eagle's metal body creaked. I ate the tiny Host and swallowed the wine. I gave thanks for the intelligence and spirit that had brought two young pilots to the Sea of Tranquility.

Isn't it interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon, and the very first food eaten there, were the communion elements. And one of the first thoughts of the men there were thoughts of what Christ has done for us on the cross.

When thinking about God's forgiveness, we are reminded that when someone was crucified, the charges against him (or her) were nailed to the cross with them so that it was made public as to the reason for the crucifixion. We read in Scripture that Pilate, against the objection of the leading priests of that day, had written the charge for which Jesus was crucified. It was for being 'King of the Jews.'

This thought causes me to reflect and think, "If I were to be crucified for my sins, what would be posted on my cross?" Still, the God of the entire universe has made it possible for me and you to be forgiven, no matter what our sin. Through genuine repentance, our sins have been blotted out as far as the east is from the west, and that's a long, long way!

God Bless You!  
*Bro. Allan*

## **Opportunities For Service**

### **Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**

#### **Sunday, October 14, 2018**

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Joseph Coats, Gary Yarbrough, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

Movie Night

#### **Wednesday, October 17**

Prayer / Bible Study ...6:30 pm

Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

#### **Sunday, October 21, 2018**

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Kirkpatrick, Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Service.....6:30 pm

#### **Monday, October 22—Tuesday, October 23**

Missouri Baptist Convention

#### **Wednesday, October 24**

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm  
Worship Team ..... 7:30 pm

**Thursday, October 25**

Food Pantry Day

**Up-Coming Events.....**

**October 14 — Movie Night 6:30 pm**

**October 20 — Valley Community Center Soupfest**

— **HIGHROAD 6pm at Journey Baptist**

**October 22-23 — Missouri Baptist Convention**

**Annual Meeting, Springfield, MO**

**GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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**Sunday Nights**

We **will** have Sunday night service tonight. Please join us tonight as we have movie night. It will last 1 hour and 51 minutes. Don't miss it!

**Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church.

Also, we have been viewing a **Spiritual Gifts** study by Ken Hemphill. Hope to see you this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

*The acclaimed ensemble:*

**HIGHROAD**

*In Concert at*

*Journey Baptist Church*

*6 pm, October 20, 2018*

*This is a FREE concert! An offering will be taken.*

***In Sympathy***

*We would like to express Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of*

*Gary Lefevere  
who passed away  
September 23, 2018.*  
*A celebration of his life was held October 5  
at the funeral home in  
Sulphur Springs, Missouri*  
*To share condolences, Tom's address is:  
22077 State Line Road  
Sulphur Springs, AR  
72768-9162*

## **Valley Community Center**

### **5th Annual Soupfest!**

909 West Valley Street

St. Joseph, Missouri

October 20 from 5-7pm

Suggested donation:

Adults \$10

Children \$5

### **SJBA SENIOR ADULT EVENT**

November 1, 10 AM

Frederick Boulevard

Baptist Church

### ***For the Record-***

#### **Attendance: October 7, 2018**

Sunday School.....	24
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	26
Contacts Made.....	9
Morning Worship.....	32
Sunday Night.....	8
Children's Worship .....	N/A
Wednesday Night .....	7

## **Financial Record:**

Weekly Budget ..... \$ 2,286.39  
Offering Received ... \$ 3,710.19  
Long Family –Sept. ... \$ 75.00  
MMO ..... \$ 1,781.00

## **Offering Received by Mail:**

Eric and Shelly Thompson

## **October Counting Team:**

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

## **October Van Driver:**

Joe Coats

Remember to call 232-3747  
**before 8 am** if you need a ride.

## **October Birthdays:**

03...Don Hart  
08...Brigida Winans  
09...Gina Harr  
10...Fred Kerns  
10...Jaden Schottel  
14...Dillon Burgess  
18...David Schottel  
19...Caitlyn Schottel  
22...Angie Liechti  
25...Tom Lefever  
28...Ellen Lane  
28...Marie Hren  
31...Tim Izer

## **October Anniversaries**

Mike and Martha Green  
October 1, 2005

## ***Prayer Requests ...***

Sandy and Stanley Wilson  
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery  
Mike Green—recovery  
Brendan Conner—Swymeler's Grandson  
Ruth Anne Bush—healing  
Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia  
Kenny Kirkpatrick  
Mary Sharp—back surgery recovery  
Linda Huff—cancer treatment  
Jim Winans—recuperation  
June Fritchle—recovery  
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings  
Arlette Duty—strength  
Donna and Bill Dunn—health  
Jack and Flo Conard  
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health

Randy and Gina Harr—new pastorate  
Tammy Panning, Emily Jones & Liam  
Cynthia Burdick—cancer recovery  
Karissa and Matt Long and family  
Stephanie & Jason Terpack  
Shawna Hughes—recovery  
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister  
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim  
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son  
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter  
LoLeta Middleton—strength  
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister  
The Waters Family      Betty Campbell  
George Ferbert      Kevin Duty  
Nellie Reynolds      Ann Riddle  
Don Beavers      Tim Izer  
Kathryn Beavers      Keon McKahan  
Jozy Winans      Kenny Duty  
Pat Means      Buddy Means  
Bill & Juanita      Debbie Sands  
Pat Puckett      Curtis Conard  
Brenda Burgess      Roscoe Lane  
Carolyn Houts  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service people  
**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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