

## 01 – WHERE IS GOD IN THE STORM?

- ✓ The storms of life come to all of us. Nobody's immune. Whether you're black or white, rich or poor, saint or sinner ... none of that matters. Trouble is coming! (Jesus said, "In the world, you will have tribulation". *That's* a promise no one is believing for, but it happens anyway.)
- ✓ In this message, I'm going to answer the question we've *all* asked as life came crashing down around us: "Where is God in the Storm?" (We're going to see how *Jesus* helped His disciples through a storm ... and then we'll compare it to how the Holy Ghost helps us *today*.)
- ✓ The reason I want to make that comparison: Through the years, I've heard so many Christians say, "Wouldn't it have been great to have lived in the Bible days? To have Jesus *right there with you* when things go wrong!" (Listen: We may not have Jesus here physically with us. But we're not at a disadvantage!)

John 16:7 – "But I am telling you the truth: *it is better for you* if I go away, because if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. But if I do go away, then I will send Him to you."

- ✓ Better? How is it better? During Jesus' earthly ministry, He could only be in one place, at one time. So, if He's in Capernaum, and you're in Jerusalem, and you need help, you'd better start walking! But with the Holy Spirit here, help is available *anytime* and *anywhere* you need it. (Let's look at our comparison.)

### What Did Jesus Do When the Disciples Were in a Storm?

Mark 6:46 – "And when he had sent them away, he went up to a mountain to pray. When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on the land. And *he saw them* struggling hard, rowing against the wind and the waves. About three o'clock in the morning, *He came to them*, walking on the water. He would have passed by them, but when they saw him walking upon the water, they thought it

was a ghost and cried out. And immediately *he talked with them*, and said, Be of good cheer: it's me; don't be afraid. And *he got into the boat*; and the wind stopped."

#### 1.) He Saw Them – "He saw them struggling ... (v. 48)

- ✓ In the storm, this is something you have to accept by faith because, from your vantage point, it feels like God is totally oblivious to what's going on. I'm sure that was true in the disciples' case. (They're in the boat, and He's on the shore.) They must have been thinking, "If only He knew!" But He *did* know. "He *saw* them."

#### 2.) He Came to Them – (v. 48)

- ✓ Now, there's a little phrase, in this verse, that I missed for years! (This is a little disturbing. Look at it again.) "He came to them and *would have passed by them*." Really? Why? They're in the middle of a brutal storm. They're terrified, and their lives are in danger. Why would He pass them by?
- ✓ Jesus is a perfect gentleman. He won't force Himself on you, even when you're struggling. He'll come into the middle of your situation, and He'll make Himself available. But if you don't call on Him, He won't force the issue. (In this case they *did* call, so ...)

#### 3.) He Talked with Them – (v. 50)

- ✓ We tend to talk to a *lot* of people when we're in the storm – our family, our friends, our pastor. And that's okay. But, in the storm, there's nobody *better* to talk to than Jesus. No matter how bad things may seem, He's never without an answer. (If necessary, He can make a way where here seems to be no way.)

#### 4.) He Got in Their Boat – (v. 51)

- ✓ When they invited Him in, He *came* in. He came right into the middle of their situation, and He calmed the storm.

## What About the Holy Ghost?

John 14:16 – “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another Comforter**.”

- ✓ There are two words for “another” in the Greek. “Allos” (which means “another of the **same** kind”), and “Heteros” (which refers to “another of a **different** kind”). The Holy Ghost is another Comforter of the same kind. He’s just like Jesus.
- ✓ The Greek word translated “Comforter” is “paraclete”, and it has a 7-fold meaning, which the Amplified Bible brings out. (“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter [Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby].”) Those seven words are going to answer the question ...

## Where Is Our Helper in the Storm?

- ✓ Let’s compare this to the account we just read about Jesus. When the disciples were in the storm, Jesus *saw* them, He *came* to them, He *talked* with them, and He *got in* their boat. Let’s see what the Holy Ghost does when *we’re* in a storm.
- ✓ We’ll be changing the order slightly, to make the comparison easier. What’s the first thing Jesus did? **He saw them**. Now what about the HG? (The word I’ll pull out is ...)

### 1.) Standby

- ✓ This word means: (i) “One who stays **alert and watchful**”, (ii) “One who can be relied on, in an emergency”.
- ✓ So, on one side, you have Jesus who **saw** them from the shore. On the other, you have the Holy Spirit, who stays **alert and watchful** at all times. Just like Jesus, nothing escapes the Spirit’s watchful eye.
- ✓ (The second thing Jesus did is “He came to them”. The word that applies here is ...)

### 2.) Comforter

- ✓ The Greek word is “paraclete” – “one called alongside to help.” (The word “para” means “close, beside, or always there”.) We actually have it *better* than the disciples did. They had to wait while Jesus walked out on the water. But, with us, the Holy Spirit is *always there*. He never leaves. (Third, it says Jesus *talked* with them. Here we’ll take the word ...)

### 3.) Counsellor

- ✓ A counsellor is “one who gives godly advice”. Again, you may have *human* counsellors, and that’s fine. But no counsellor could ever compare with the Holy Ghost, who knows everything. (He counsels us through the Word, and He speaks to our hearts.)
- ✓ The fourth thing Jesus did is He got in their boat. Now how does the Holy Spirit get in our “boat”? For this, we’ll look at the word “intercessor”. (When we think of intercession, we think of prayer. But the word “intercessor” has several shades of meaning.)

### 4.) Intercessor

- ✓ The Greek word for “intercession” literally means “to fall into a pit with someone”. In both cases, God comes into your dangerous situation. (Jesus climbed into their boat. And the Holy Ghost “falls into your pit”.) I can never think about that without remembering ...

1 Chron. 11:22 – “Benaiah ... killed a lion in a pit, on a snowy day.

- ✓ There were a lot of things wrong with that fight:
- ✓ First, it was an **unfair fight** – (he’s no match for a lion). Secondly, it was in a **bad location**. (A pit is probably the worst place you could be with a lion. Where are you going to run?) Finally, it was an **untimely fight** – a snowy day is a bad time to try to fight a lion. (It’s slippery.)

- ✓ What a great picture of what Satan tries to do to us. He'll come when it's **inconvenient**, in the **worst possible place**, with an **unfair set of circumstances**! Just when we think it's hopeless ... in drops our Champion!

#### 5.) Advocate – (Lawyer)

- ✓ The HG's advocate ministry kicks in when you caused your own problem. (Has anyone ever done that? Absolutely.) We've ALL been in a pit of our own making.
- ✓ Sometimes, people think, "Well, I've made my bed hard. I'll just have to lie in it. (Why would God help me? I did this to myself.)" But God is merciful! If you'll repent, He'll help you, even when you did it to yourself.

*Psalms 107:20 – "He sent His word and healed **them**, and delivered them from their destructions."*

- ✓ He sent His Word and healed "them". Did you ever ask yourself, "who's the 'them'?" Back up to v. 17, and you'll see it.

*Psalms 107:17 – "**Fools** because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. Their soul abhors all manner of meat; they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saves them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed **them**, and delivered them from their destructions."* (1 John 2:1;

#### 6.) Strengtheners –

*Phil. 4:13 (Amp) – "I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me. I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me."*

#### 7.) Helper - Sunantilambanomai – "to take hold together with against".

- ✓ I couldn't move a piano by myself. But I can move it if I ask 6 of my strongest friends to **"take hold" with me**, "against" its weight.