

Sermon Title- Shift Your Focus

The more you focus on one thing, the more everything else around it becomes a blur.

Hebrews 12:1–2

... let us **throw off** everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **fixing our eyes** on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...

Matthew 6:34

"Therefore **do not worry** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Worry is simply **focusing** on the **problem** (real or perceived)

Focus on Jesus.

Isaiah 26:3 says:

"You will keep in perfect **peace** those whose **minds** are steadfast, because they trust in you."

Philippians 4: 8

Finally brother and sisters,
Whatever is true,
Whatever is noble,
Whatever is right,
Whatever is pure,
Whatever is lovely,
Whatever is admirable,
If anything is excellent or praiseworthy-
think about such things.

Focusing on God causes:

Us to see **God as Bigger**, and our **Problem as Smaller**.

The problem can be big...

But **GOD** is still **BIGGER**.

Psalm 46:1:

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help **IN** trouble.”

Daniel 6:10:

“Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home... Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, **just as he had done before.**”

1. The Presence of a Problem Does Not Mean the Absence of God

Isaiah 43:2:

“**When** you pass through the waters, I will be with you... **When** you walk through the fire, you will not be burned.”

Psalm 34:19 says:

“The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all.”

John 16:33:

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

2. What if I caused my problem?

Jonah 2:1:

“**From inside** the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God.”

1 John 1:9:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Lamentations 3:22–23:

“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed... his mercies are new every morning.”

3. Some storms come when you are doing everything right

Matthew 14:22 says:

“Immediately **Jesus** made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side...”

Romans 8:28

God works in **all** things for the **good** of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Matthew 14:24 says:

“...the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because **the wind was against it.**”

Romans 8:31:

“If God is for us, who can be against us?”

4. Jesus sees you in the storm!

Matthew 14:29-31 Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when **he saw the wind**, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

5. The Miracle can happen in the middle of your storm

Matthew 14:32- And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

Matthew 14:30:

“But **when he saw the wind**, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’”

FEAR MAGNIFIES THE **WIND**.
FAITH MAGNIFIES **GOD**.

How do I shift my focus?

1. Worship
2. Pray
3. Think
4. Trust

Worship

Psalm 34:1:

“I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.”

Pray

Philippians 4:6 says:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”

Think

Philippians 4:8:

“Whatever is true...noble...right...pure...lovely...admirable...
excellent...praiseworthy... think about such things.”

Trust

Proverbs 3:5–6:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge, and he will make your paths straight.”

