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INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

ENTRY 22-6

THE WIND AND WAVES OBEY HIM

On more than one occasion, Scripture tells a story of Jesus calming a storm. You may think of the storms in your life and realize the most important detail – that Jesus is in your boat. We read, “*A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion*” (Mark 4:37-38). The story is recorded early in all three of the synoptic gospels. The disciples were still being introduced to the Messiah, and He revealed to them five amazing truths about His life.

FIVE THINGS JESUS REVEALED

- 1. Jesus is God, yet he became a man to fully identify with each of us.** As such, He was exhausted, and after a full day of ministry, He crashed. He fell into a deep sleep on a pillow at the back of a small, wooden boat. He was in such a deep sleep that even the wind and the waves that violently rocked the boat, and began to fill it with water, did not wake Him. He was a human being like all of us.
- 2. Jesus revealed that He was personable and relatable.** Although He separated Himself during times of prayer, for the most part He was not a loner, nor did He pontificate like someone living in an ivory tower. He interacted with people and was a close friend to His disciples. He was in the boat with them and He was always sharing His heart with them.
- 3. Jesus was always teaching his disciples.** Night was falling and it was getting dark, yet Jesus said, “*Let us go to the other side*” (Mark 4:35). I think He knew that a storm was coming, and intended to use it as an object lesson. In our lives, Jesus is always saying, “*Let us go to the other side.*” As we journey through the storms of life Jesus teaches us, and that is when great testimonies arise. If Daniel had not been taken as a prisoner to Babylon,

His life would not have been so powerful. He may have been completely unknown. On his “journey to the other side”, he served five kings, was saved from lions, revealed historical dreams, defied witchcraft and evil men, and set up the community of God in a pagan land. That eventually led to the wise men who emerged to be part of the Christmas story. When the storm was calmed, Jesus taught a life message to His disciples. He taught them to trust Him and have faith, even in the middle of the storm.

- 4. Jesus revealed how much He cares for us.** The storm was raging and the disciples woke Jesus up. They said, “*Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?*” (Mark 4:38). When we find ourselves in the middle of the storm, we may ask the same question, “*Lord, where are You, don’t You care about our pain?*” When



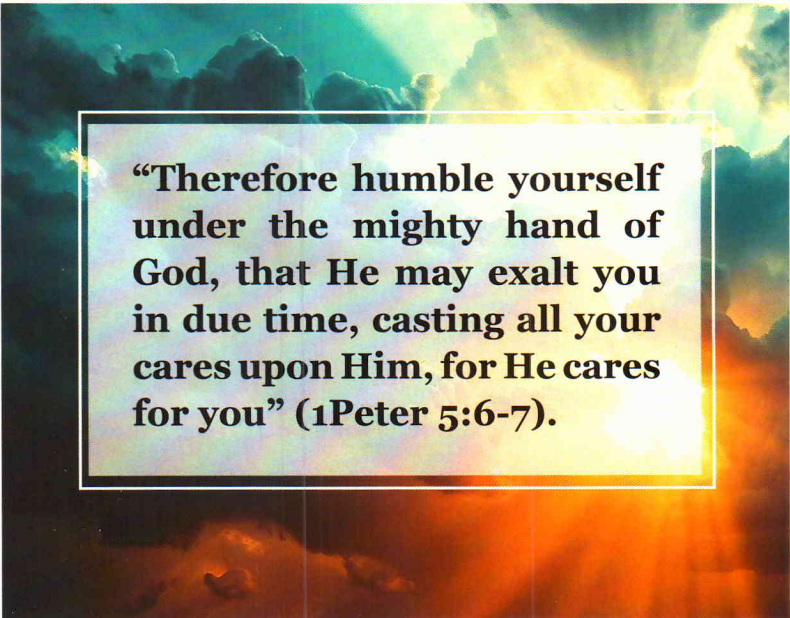
in trouble, we must do what the disciples did; they called on the Lord. Scripture says, *"Therefore humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you"* (1Peter 5:6-7). We wish there were no storms in this life, and that if they did come they would end quickly. That, however, is not the case. Jesus said, *"In the world you will have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). Jesus promises never to leave us nor forsake us, therefore cast your cares on Him for He cares for you.

5. Jesus is all powerful. After Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples said, *"Who is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"* (Mark 4:41). Every Spirit-filled veteran of Christ can tell you a story of how they were rescued by Jesus. Over the span of my lifetime, I could literally tell you a hundred stories of how Jesus has rescued me. Miraculous signs and wonders are common experiences for a Spirit-led Christian. In time, we learn that Jesus is all powerful and even the wind and the waves obey him. Regardless of the storm that rages around us, if Jesus is in our boat, and we call on Him and cast our cares upon Him, miracles always follow. They do not come according to our timetable, and sometimes they are different than what we expected, but miracles always come.

GETTING THROUGH THE STORM

A squall is a storm that comes suddenly, and often unexpectedly. An accident, job firing, relational breakup, devastating sickness, financial collapse, sin, and unfulfilled expectations and disappointments can crash in on you without warning. One day everything is fine, then suddenly you are struck hard. And it may be more the one thing that strikes you. It may be a violent wind and horrific waves that literally swamp you.

Make sure you are walking with Jesus and He will bring you to the other side. **1.** Humble yourself and draw close to the Lord and make sure you put everything right. **2.** Repent of your sin. If you say you have no sin, you lie. The Lord will show you your sin if you ask Him. Then, repent of that sin. **3.** The next thing you must definitely do is forgive others. Do it in prayer and in person, if that is possible. **4.** Then, make restitution, reform your life, renounce evil, and put matters right wherever you can. **5.** Eventually, you must move on. Do not get stuck living forever in the pain or shame of a past traumatic storm. Jesus



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will forgive and restore you and you must let Him do it. Life is for living. Be more than a survivor; be an overcomer. Refuse to drown in your sorrows. Get up and serve the Lord with gladness; no matter what storms you have faced in the past, do not stay in the storm. Life is too short for that.

LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE

The gospel is simple to understand but not always easy to do. Once you are saved by repenting of your sins and receiving your salvation through Christ, then you have two rules to live by; love God and love people. This does not mean that there will be no storms. You have experienced them in the past and more will come in the future, but you must always return to the basics. With all your heart and your energy, love God and love people. Devote yourself to worship, to the Word and to prayer. Then, press in to serve your family, your local church, and those in your community. Be excellent in all that you do. This will rebuild your dignity and restore joy back into your life. In time, once again, you will hear the Lord say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant; my favor rests on you". If the Lord of the wind and the waves is in your boat, you will do more than persevere, you will be blessed, and you will be a blessing to everyone around you!

Instructions in Righteousness is produced by Christians for Messiah Ministries (CFM). Dr. Peter Wyns is the President of CFM and the Head Pastor of Antioch International Church. He has served as a pastor for 54 years and traveled to more than 45 nations.

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