

“SUMMER OF MIRACLES”

“THE MIRACLE OF PEACE”

MARK 4:35-41

INTRODUCTION

HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED A BEAUTY PAGEANT?

DURING THE TELECAST THEY HAVE VARIOUS SEGMENTS- THE OPENING SEQUENCE, THE OPENING MUSICAL NUMBER, THE BATHING SUIT COMPETITION, THE TALENT COMPETITION, AND THEN THEY INTERVIEW EACH OF THE FINALISTS TO ASK THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT LIFE RELATED MATTERS.

EVERY YEAR A CONTESTANT IS ASKED WHAT ONE THING WOULD YOU GIVE THE WORLD IF YOU HAD THE POWER TO DO SO AND THAT ANSWER IS GENERALLY THE SAME – “WORLD PEACE.”

IT IS NOT THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE TO DEFAME THAT ANSWER BECAUSE WE DO INDEED NEED PEACE IN THIS WORLD.

- 1. THERE ARE WARS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE GLOBE**
- 2. THERE IS CURRENTLY A WORLD WIDE FINANCIAL RECESSION.**
- 3. THERE ARE ROGUE COUNTRIES DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS.**
- 4. THERE ARE UNSOLVED TRAGEDIES IN DAFUR.**
- 5. THERE ARE NATIONS IN AFRICA THAT ARE GOING TO BED NIGHTLY WITHOUT FOOD OR SHELTER.**
- 6. THERE ARE NATIONS THAT CARE MORE ABOUT POLITICS THAN PEOPLE.**

7. THERE IS TROUBLE IN OUR CHURCHES, OUR HOMES, OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR CITIES.

PEACE ON A GLOBAL SCALE IS FINE. HOWEVER, PEACE IS NOT JUST NEEDED GLOBALLY OR CORPORATELY.

PEACE IS NEEDED IN OUR INDIVIDUAL LIVES.

THERE CANNOT BE PEACE CORPORATELY – AS A NATION, AS A STATE, AS A CITY, AS A COMMUNITY, OR EVEN AS A CHURCH BODY – UNTIL YOU AND I EXPERIENCE PEACE IN OUR LIVES.

IN TIMES LIKE THESE, WE NEED PEACE...

- 1. WHEN WOMEN ARE THE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE HOME, AT THE HANDS OF A MAN WHO SAYS THEY LOVE THEM – WE NEED PEACE.**
- 2. WHEN OUR BOYS ARE GETTING TURNED OUT SEXUALLY BY FATHERS, BROTHERS AND SO CALLED UNCLES – WE NEED PEACE**
- 3. WHEN YOU'RE MORE LIKELY TO GET PULLED OVER BY THE POLICE BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN – WE NEED PEACE.**
- 4. WHEN YOU TRY TO RAISE BOYS WHO THINK THEY'RE GROWN AND CALL THEMSELVES MACK DADDIES AND DADDY MACKS AND DON'T HAVE A DOLLAR IN THEIR POCKETS TO BY A BIG MACK – WE NEED PEACE.**
- 5. WHEN YOU MATRICULATE THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT YOUR DEGREE DOESN'T TRANSLATE INTO EMPLOYMENT – WE NEED PEACE.**
- 6. WHEN CRIME OCCURS IN OUR CITY AND BLACK ON BLACK CRIME STATISTICS ARE RISING EACH YEAR-WE NEED PEACE.**
- 7. WHEN YOUR BILLS ARE HIGH AND YOUR MONEY LOW – WE NEED PEACE.**

8. **WHEN ALCOHOL AND DRUGS ARE YOUR SEDATIVES TO HELP YOU FORGET YOUR PROBLEMS – WE NEED PEACE.**

SOME PEOPLE LOOK FOR PEACE FROM PSYCHIATRISTS, COUNSELLORS, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY – BUT IF WE TELL THE TRUTH, THEY HAVE THEIR PROBLEMS TOO.

TRUE PEACE CANNOT BE EXTRACTED FROM OTHER WEAK AND CRUMBLING VESSELS – NO, REAL PEACE CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN JESUS CHRIST.

I SAID FROM JESUS CHRIST!

1. **HE IS THE EMBODIMENT OF PEACE.**
2. **HE IS THE SOURCE OF PEACE.**
3. **HE IS THE FOUNTAIN OF PEACE.**
4. **HE IS THE KING OF KINGS.**
5. **HE IS THE LORD OF LORDS**
6. **HE IS DESCRIBED AS THE PRINCE OF PEACE!**

IN OUR TEXT, JESUS AND THE DISCIPLE ARE TRAVELLING ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE.

THE MASTER HAS JUST BEEN TEACHING THE MULTITUDES AND NOW HAS DECIDED, ON A LAST MINUTE NOTICE, THAT HE WANTS TO LEAVE THEM MASSES AND TRAVEL BY NIGHT TO THE EASTERN SHORE WHERE HE CAN GET SOME REST AND MINISTER TO A NEW CROWD OF POTENTIAL BELIEVERS .

THEY TRAVEL NOT BY LAND, BUT BY SEA.

MANY OF THEM WERE FISHERMAN AND THEY WERE FAMILIAR WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE.

AS THEY TRAVEL, A SIGNIFICANT AND SINISTER STORM RISES UP CONSISTING OF HIGH WINDS THAT GENERATE

DANGEROUS AND PERILOUS HIGH SEAS THAT BEGIN TO CONSUME AND CAPSIZE THEIR BOAT.

I. THEY ARE TRAVELLING AT THE DIRECTION OF JESUS.

(A.) HE HAS MADE AN UNPLANNED DETOUR WITH ONLY A FEW MOMENTS NOTICE.

- 1. JESUS WANTS TO FO FROM THE WEST SIDE TO THE EAST SIDE.**
- 2. UNPEACEFUL TIMES OCCUR, NOT BECAUSE OF THE PLANNED CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE.**
- 3. YOU EXPECT SOME THINGS IN LIFE, BUT WHEN THOSE UNPLANNED CIRCUMSTANCES OCCUR, IT WILL MAKE YOU ANXIOUS, AFRAID, STRESSED OUT, WORRIED, AND WILL WEAR YOU OUT.**
- 4. JESUS SAYS LET'S GO TO THE OTHER SIDE, BUT HE NEVER TOLD THEM THAT THIS WAS GOING TO BE AN EASY TRIP.**
- 5. THEY WERE TRAVELLING ON A KNOWN ROUTE ON THE SEA OF GALILEE, AND ANY SAILOR WORTH HIS SALT WOULD TELL YOU THAT A STORM COULD RISE UP AT ANY TIME.**

(B.) I NEED TO WARN YOU THAT IN THIS LIFE – A STORM COULD RISE UP AT ANY TIME.

- 1. DON'T YOU GET COMFORTABLE THINKING THAT YOU'VE GOT IT GOING ON TODAY AND YOUR CHILDREN ARE LITTLE ANGELS AND YOU LOOK GOOD AND FLY TODAY – THE TRUTH IS, A STORM COULD RISE UP AT ANY TIME.**
- 2. YOU COULD WIND UP IN JAIL WITH YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE THIS WEEK.**

3. **YOU COULD WIND UP HOMELESS WITH YOUR MORTGAGE AND NO MONEY THIS MONTH.**
4. **YOU COULD WIND UP ON THE SICK AND SHUT IN LIST AND IN YOUR 20'S THIS YEAR.**
5. **YOUR COULD WIND UP CERTIFIABLY CRAZY, DIAGNOSED SCHIZOPHRENIC, PARALYZED BY PHOBIA, MENTALLY INCOMPETENT – WITH YOUR SMART SELF THIS AFTERNOON.**
6. **YOU COULD WIND UP IN THE HOSPITAL TONIGHT.**
7. **YOUR MARRIAGE COULD BE OVER THIS WEEK.**
8. **YOUR DIAGNOSIS COULD BE ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK.**
9. **YOUR BODY COULD BE IN THE MORGUE IN THE MORNING.**
10. **STORMS COME UP!**
11. **EVEN TRAVELLING WITH JESUS, YOU ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM THE TRIALS AND TROUBLES OF LIFE.**
12. **THESE FISHERMEN FOUND THEMSELVES IN A STORM.**

II. THE PICTURE HERE IS THAT THE DISCIPLES ARE NAVIGATING THE BOAT AND WHILE THE STORM IS GOING ON.

(A.) THEY ARE LIFELONG FISHERMEN WHO, DESPITE THEIR TRAINING, DESPITE THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SEA, THEY ARE IN MAJOR TROUBLE.

1. THE WIND IS BLOWING.

2. THE WAVES ARE CRASHING AGAINST THE SIDES OF THE BOAT.

3. THE WATER IS LEAVING THE SEA AND ENTERING THE SHIP.

(B.) I'M NOT A PROFESSIONAL FISHERMAN, BUT I DO KNOW YOU ARE IN TROUBLE WHEN YOU HAVE MORE WATER ON THE INSIDE OF YOUR BOAT THAN YOU HAVE ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR BOAT.

1. ON THIS BOAT ARE THE DISCIPLES, THE APOSTLES OF THE MODERN CHRISTIAN CHURCH – STRUGGLING TO NAVIGATE THE WATERS, UNTIL SOMEONE SAYS, LET'S GO WAKE JESUS UP.

2. I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH GOING TO JESUS, BUT I'M PUZZLED BY THE PAUSE, THE HESITATION, AND THE DELAY.

(C.) HERE'S THE PICTURE-

1. THEY GET ON THE SHIP

2. THEY PUSH FROM THE SHORE

3. THEY LEAVE THE WEST SIDE –

4. JESUS FINDS HIMSELF A RESTING PLACE IN THE STERN OF THE SHIP. THE REAR OF THE BOAT, AND SETTLES DOWN IN AN AREA WHERE YOU COULD SLIP ON A LEATHER-ROWING CUSHION.

5. THE STORM COMES UP.

6. THEY BATTLE THE STORM.

7. THEY TRY TO NAVIGATE IN HARSH WINDS.

8. THEY TRY TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE BOAT.

9. THEN, THEY GET JESUS.

(D.) MY PROBLEM WITH THIS SCENARIO IS THAT THE TIME TO GET JESUS IS NOT WHEN YOU GET IN TROUBLE.

1. LET'S TELL THE TRUTH – SOMETIMES WE GET JESUS AS A MATTER OF LAST RESORT.

2. AFTER WE'VE TRIED TO FIX IT.

3. AFTER WE'VE TRIED TO WORK IT OUT.

4. AFTER WE'VE TRIED ALL WE CAN DO.

(E.) NO – YOU GET HIM IMMEDIATELY AND YOU CALL HIM NOW!

1. DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU GET IN TROUBLE – CALL HIM WHILE THINGS ARE GONG WELL.

2. DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOUR HEALTH FAILS – CALL HIM NOW.

3. DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOUR HUSBAND LEAVES YOU – CALL HIM NOW

4. DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOU GET PUT OUT OF YOUR HOME – CALL HIM NOW.

(F.) WHAT DO YOU MEAN PASTOR?

1. I'VE LEARNED THAT YOU'VE GOT TO PRAY IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON.
2. YOU PRAY BEFORE SITUATIONS GET BAD.
3. YOU PRAY FOR PEOPLE NOT JUST WHEN THEY'RE ACTING RIGHT.
4. YOU PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR NOW!
5. YOU PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH NOW!
6. YOU PRAY FOR YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE NOW!
7. YOU PRAY FOR YOUR CHILD NOW!
8. DON'T WAIT UNTIL THAT CHILD IS ON HIS FEET – LAY YOUR HANDS ON HIM WHILE HE'S SLEEPING, PRAY OVER HIM.
9. DON'T WAIT UNTIL YOUR HUSBAND GOES TO THE CLUB – PRAY FOR HIM WHILE HE'S SLEEPING.
10. DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR BOSS TO ACT A FOOL – PRAY FOR HIM NOW!
11. I DECLARE, CHRIST WILL HEAR YOU, AND COME SEE ABOUT YOUR NEEDS.

III. IT'S A BLESSING FOR THE LORD TO SHOW UP.

- (A.) THERE ARE TIMES THAT I NEED JESUS, NOT TO ONLY SHOW UP , BUT I NEED HIM TO SHOW UP WITH POWER.
 1. LIKE THE OLD FOLK USED TO SAY, I NEED HIM TO SHOW UP AND SHOW OUT!
- (B.) JESUS IS CONFRONTED BY THE DISCIPLES' PLEA, "MASTER, DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT US?"

2. I WANT TO SPEAK TO EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM WHO IS GOING THROUGH TROUBLE AND TRIALS-

- 1. SOMEONE WHO HAS EVEN, THOUGHT ABOUT BLOWING YOUR BRAINS OUT.**
- 2. SOMEONE WHO HAS THOUGHT ABOUT HANGING YOURSELF.**
- 3. SOMEONE WHO HAS THOUGHT ABOUT JUMPING OFF A BRIDGE.**
- 4. SOMEONE WHO HAS THOUGHT ABOUT CUTTING YOUR WRIST BECAUSE YOU THINK NOBODY CARES –**
- 5. LET ME TELL YOU THAT, JESUS CARES!**
- 6. HE CARES ABOUT YOU!**
- 7. HE CARES ABOUT YOUR LIFE!**
- 8. HE CARES ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES.**
- 10. HE CARES ABOUT YOUR FAMILY.**

(C.) JESUS CARED FOR HIS DISCIPLES.

- 1. IF JESUS DIDN'T CARE, HE WOULD HAVE STAYED IN THE HINDER PART OF THE BOAT.**
- 2. IF JESUS DIDN'T CARE, HE WOULD HAVE TAKEN A WALK ON THE WATER AND SAID , YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.**
- 3. IF JESUS DIDN'T CARE, HE WOULD HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THEIR SIGHT.**

(D.) THE PROBLEM IS THAT WHEN MANY OF US GO THROUGH OUR PROBLEMS, WE ACT LIKE NO ONE CARES.

- 1. EXCUSE ME, BABY, HE CARES!**

2. **EVEN WHEN YOU'RE GOING THROUGH YOUR PROBLEMS AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING THROUGH SOMETHING ALL BY YOURSELF.**

(E.) MATTER OF FACT, HE NOT ONLY CARES, BUT HE CAN HANDLE ALL OF YOUR PROBLEMS.

1. **I KNOW PEOPLE WHO CARE, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ANY POWER TO ADDRESS MY SITUATION.**
2. **OPRAH CARES, BUT SHE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR ME.**
3. **DR. PHIL CARES, BUT HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR ME.**

(F.) THEY WAKE HIM; HE GETS UP AND REBUKES THE WIND AND THE WAVES.

1. **HE SAYS (IN ENGLISH) "PEACE BE STILL."**
2. **IN GREEK HE SAYS TO THE SITUATION, "BE MUZZLED" YOU'RE MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE," "YOU ARE A DISTURBANCE," "HUSH."**
3. **IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS HAS THE POWER TO TELL YOUR TROUBLES TO SHUT UP!**
4. **A FEW MONTHS AGO I SHARED WITH SOME FRIENDS THAT MICHAEL JACKSON HAD DIED AND THE FIRST THING THEY SAID WAS "SHUT UP."**
5. **A FEW WEEKS LATER, I TOLD A FRIEND OF MINE THAT STEVE MCNAIR HAD BEEN MURDERED AND THE FIRST THING HE SAID WAS "SHUT UP."**
6. **LATER, I TOLD A WOMAN THAT WALTER CRONKITE HAD DIED AND THE FIRST THING SHE SAID WAS "SHUT UP."**

7. WHEN JESUS SAW THE WINDS AND WAVES, THE FIRST THING HE SAID WAS ‘SHUT UP.’

(G.) SOME OF YOU ARE GONG THROUGH SOME THINGS RIGHT NOW AND IF THEY WOULD JUST SHUT UP – YOU’D BE ALL RIGHT.

- 1. I’VE LEARNED, YOU’VE GOT TO TAKE SOME SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY-**
- 2. THAT’S RIGHT , SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY, USING THE POWER THAT THE LORD HAS GIVEN YOU – AND SPEAK OVER YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES:**
- 3. YOU’VE GOT TO LEARN HOW TO TELL YOUR TROUBLE TO ‘SHUT UP!’**
- 4. YOU’VE GOT TO LEARN HOW TO TELL YOUR CANCER TO ‘SHUT UP!’**
- 5. YOU’VE GOT TO LEARN HOW TO TELL YOUR BILLS TO “SHUT UP!”**
- 6. YOU’VE GOT TO LEARN HOW TO TELL THOSE DEMONS TALKING TO YOUR KIDS TO, ‘SHUT UP!’**

(H.) IT’S OKAY TO SAY ‘SHUT UP” BUT YOU BETTER HAVE SOME AUTHORITY.

- 1. JESUS, ON THE INSIDE OF YOU, HAS AUTHORITY TO TELL YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES TO SHUT UP!**
- 2. “GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN ME, THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD!”**

CONCLUSION

(A.) JESUS KNEW BEFORE THEY GOT ON THE BOAT THAT THE STORM WOULD COME.

1. **JESUS KNEW, BEFORE THEY PUT ONE PADDLE IN THE WATER, THAT THE STORM WAS COMING.**
2. **JESUS KNEW BEFORE THEY GOT INTO DEEP WATER THAT THE STORM WOULD COME.**
3. **I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOUR STORM MAY BE. JESUS HAS THE POWER TO HANDLE YOUR STORM.**

(B.) I'M CLOSING HERE, BUT, YOU CAN EVEN LEARN SOME THINGS IN A STORM.

1. **THE DISCIPLES DIDN'T CALL HIM PILOT.**
2. **THE DISCIPLES DIDN'T CALL HIM CAPTAIN.**
3. **THE DISCIPLES DIDN'T CALL HIM HELMSMEN**
4. **THEY CALLED HIM "TEACHER."**
5. **THEY NEEDED A NAVIGATOR, THEY NEEDED A PILOT, AND THEY NEEDED A HELMSMAN. BUT THEY CALLED HIM TEACHER!**

(C.) THAT SUGGESTS THAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM A STORM!

1. **YOU CAN GET STRONGER FROM A STORM.**
2. **YOU CAN GET WISER FROM A STORM.**
3. **YOU CAN GET BETTER FROM A STORM.**
4. **YOU CAN GET PEACE FROM A STORM!**

(D.) I'VE BEEN IN SOME STORMS!

1. **I'VE SEEN MY LIFE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.**

- 2. I'VE CRIED IN MY STORM.**
- 3. I'VE FALLEN TO THE GROUND IN MY STORMS.**
- 4. I'VE HAD SOME BILLS PAID IN MY STORM.**
- 5. BUT, I LEARNED TO CALL ON THE NAME OF JESUS IN MY STORM.**
- 6. I'VE LEARNED HOW TO SAY LORD HELP ME !**
- 7. I'VE LEARNED HOW TO CALL ON THE NAME OF JESUS!**
- 8. THERE IS POWER – IN HIS NAME!**
- 9. THERE IS DELIVERANCE – IN HIS NAME!**
- 10. THERE IS JOY – IN HIS NAME!**
- 11. THERE IS HOPE – IN HIS NAME!**
- 12. POWER – HE DIED!**
- 13. POWER –THEY BURIED HIM!**
- 14. ALL POWER – HE GOT UP!**

