

The Answer to Life's Problems

John 6:15-21

Life Group Discussion – September 23rd, 2018

After the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus went to the mountain to be by Himself. The disciples were sent to Capernaum by boat when it began to storm, they became afraid. This was a test given by Jesus. God will test His children in order to build their faith.

The disciples saw the power of Jesus when he fed five thousand. This faith should have brought courage in the face of the storm, but they were afraid. Through this experience, God is teaching us something very important.

1. Training comes through waiting

When the storm arose, Jesus did not come immediately. He purposely waited because waiting builds the faith.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. (John 6:16-18)

It was already dark when the disciples went to sea. After some time, it became extremely dark and a strong wind approached. Even though they were skilled and knew how to sail a boat, this was a time when no amount of skill or hard work would help, there was nothing they could do to make this better.

Jesus knows the pains and struggles that we go through. It says that He there watching us even in the most difficult of situations. But one thing that separates Christians from others in this world is that we know that Jesus will work through our hardships to bring us closer to Him. Even in the most desperate of situations, we can persevere and continue on because we know God is working in all circumstances for our good. It's with this type of determination and faith that God can use us, and it is that type of faith He is building in us when He decides to wait.

2. God sees all situations

And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the

wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. (Mark 6:47-48)

Jesus transcends time and space. He sees the pain and difficulty of what we are going through. Jesus was praying for his disciples and what they were going through when He was on the mountain alone. Jesus is praying for us when we go through difficulties. And in His perfect timing, He will come to be with us. When Jesus walked on water, there are a few things we learned.

1. There will be unforeseeable situations that come up that we cannot control.
2. Jesus knows when we go through difficulties
3. Jesus will come in His perfect timing

Jesus sees the pain we are going through. And He is still the same God who said, "Do not be afraid." But there are times when we are so afraid or confused that we cannot hear God's voice. In those times we must stop everything we are doing and pray and seek the Lord. He will direct us.

3. Jesus created everything
And when evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land. And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." (Mark 6:47-50)

What the disciples needed to hear most in the world was Jesus saying, "Do not be afraid." There will be times when we go through financial difficulties. Our family lives may be falling apart. Our bodies may begin to fail. But those things need to be given to Jesus. When you give up on yourself and rely on Jesus, He will guide you.

How do we rely fully on Jesus? Through prayer.
For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? (Deuteronomy 4:7)

Our hearts are always judging whether what is in front of us is possible or impossible. If it is impossible for us, then we must pray, give it to God, and forget about it.

“Thus says the Lord who made the earth, the Lord who formed it to establish it—the Lord is his name: Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.” (Jeremiah 33:2-3)

We must remember that all things on this earth were made and allowed by God. This is the key to answering our problems. When Jeremiah went to prison, he asked the Lord what he needed to do, and God responded,

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

For every problem, we must first go to the Lord. When Jeremiah went to prison, the first thing he did was ask the Lord for the answer. When you are in the prison of sickness, go to the Lord first. When you are in the prison of your job, go to the Lord first. He will be able to save you in your darkest of moments.

We must pray at all times. This is the most important thing we can do with our time. When we pray, we allow God to come into our lives and break the barriers and walls that separate us from Him. We do not control our fate, our lives are formed and led by God.

Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. (Psalm 139:16)

When we pray we are seeking God’s will. When we do not know which way to go, we can pray and ask God. Then God will block the road that you should not go and our worship will become more meaningful as we experience His mercy in our lives.

To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. (Proverbs 16:1)

In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. (Proverbs 16:9)

Even though we plan and prepare for the future, if it is not the road that God has ordained for us, it will be full of trouble. So instead of planning everything, let us lay everything down and pray to God. Then He will give us direction and lead us to the right road.

If we don’t pray, our spirits will die. Prayer is the most important thing we can do.

4. Being with Jesus is the fastest way

When Jesus walked on water to the disciples and calmed their hearts, it says that they immediately, in one moment, came to land.

When we are with Jesus, He will do things immediately and suddenly. There are things that we cannot do on our own. There are tasks that seem impossible, sickness that seem incurable, and problems that we have been dealing with for so long. But we believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. Miracles can happen and lives can change in an instant. Believe in Jesus and He will do something miraculous in your life.

SHARING-----

1. The disciples were amazed and excited after the feeding of the five thousand but immediately experienced the storm. When was a time when you experienced something great but afterward experienced hardship? What do you feel like God was trying to teach you?
2. Is there a situation in your life that seems like it will never be fixed? Share and ask one another and God what the solution could be.
3. Prayer is the most important thing we can do. Please share one prayer request and take some time to pray for one another.