

MADRID CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

2017 ANNUAL THEME:

PUTTING ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

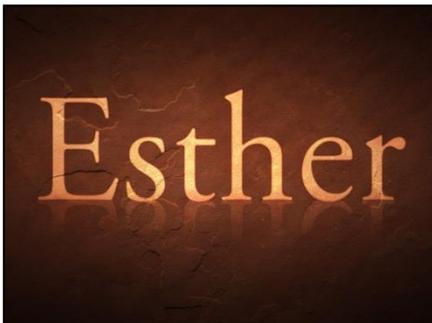


EPHESIANS 6:10-20

"PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL" (EPHESIANS 6:11).

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9AM



11AM



"BE DILIGENT TO PRESENT YOURSELF APPROVED TO GOD AS A WORKMAN WHO DOES NOT NEED TO BE ASHAMED, ACCURATELY HANDLING THE WORD OF TRUTH" (2 TIM. 2:4).

RIPPED OUT OF CONTEXT: MARK 4:35-41

In Mark 4:35-41, we have an extraordinary display of Jesus' power. In this passage, Jesus gets His disciples into a boat and gives them a simple directive: "Let's go to the other side." They start the trip and have other smaller boats traveling with them, either with people or supplies. While they are going across, Jesus makes good use of the time and gets some rest before He gets right back to work on the other side of the Sea. During this time that Jesus is sleeping, a great storm comes upon the Sea. This is a common occurrence on the Sea of Galilee. You could have gone out onto the Sea to go fishing, and when you left, the weather could have been beautiful. But while you are out, a storm could move in quickly. If the storm was bad enough, you could be in great danger. We are told that the storm that came upon the disciples was a "great windstorm" (v37). It was so bad that waves were filling the ship with water. That's not good! This is a dangerous situation that they found themselves in. It is no surprise that they are frightened and think that they are going to die. Experienced fishermen know when a storm is dangerous enough to lose your life. If the boat would fill or capsize, they would be goners! Out of fear, they wake Jesus up. They need help! They need to get the water out of the boat. They need to get to shore as quickly as possible... They call out to their master, "don't you care that we are perishing?" Jesus' response is amazing. It seems that He has no fear, just gets up and rebukes the sea. The sea gets quiet, then Jesus rebukes the disciples about their lack of faith.

What is the lesson that Mark is getting across in this account? Often when this passage is taught on, the main lesson that is taught is, "Jesus will calm your storms. He will take away what is causing you to fear." This may surprise you, but this is not the message that Mark is trying to get across to his readers. The main lesson of this passage is not that Jesus will make our circumstances better or take away our fears.

But what is the main lesson of this passage? The main lesson of this passage is the main lesson of the rest of the Gospel of Mark up to this point. Mark tells us what this Gospel is all about in Mark 1:1. He tells us that this is “the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” This gospel, as well as this specific account we are looking at in chapter four, is meant to show that Jesus is God’s anointed, divine King. The main point Mark is getting across in 4:35-41 is given to us in verse 41, where the disciples ask, “Who then is this, that even the wind and sea obey Him?”

The main emphasis in this chapter is NOT about how Jesus alleviates the fears of the disciples by calming the storm and how He can do the same with us. Jesus never lessened their fears. The opposite happened as they considered who was before them. In verse 40, Jesus asked why they were afraid over the storm, but then in verse 41, after Jesus calmed the storm, Mark says, “they were filled with great fear...” It seems that, after Jesus stopped the storm, that they were even MORE afraid than they were before! Jesus doesn’t take away their fears, He only changes the object of their fear.

You may be asking, is there an application here regarding our trials? Yes, there is, but the lesson is not that Jesus will just take our trials away. This is not a promise given to His people in the New Testament. The storms will come. They are part of life. Even when Jesus is with us, the storms come! This is an important lesson to remember. There are a couple more lessons for us in this passage:

- Trials teach us about ourselves. God allows trials to come so He can teach us something. The disciples had the condition of their hearts revealed to them. They lacked faith. They were the shallow, rocky soil. Jesus, through the trials we go through, can help us see the true condition of our hearts.
- Trials also teach us about the Lord. It is almost always the case, that after we go through trials, we see how the Lord was working in our lives and the lives of others as we went through the storm. It may be weeks or even years later that we learn these things, but when we do, we can see the goodness, wisdom, and power of God in His work.

VISITORS:

THANK YOU FOR COMING TODAY!

If you are visiting with us and have any questions about what you have seen or heard today, please fill out a visitor's card or contact us using the information below. We would be happy to schedule a time to sit down with you and to answer your questions from God's word.

Call or text Jason @ 412-999-4837 or email him @
preacher@madridchurch.com

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 04/30 – Invite Sunday (*Lesson: The Greatest News Possible, Pt2, Jesus Died for Our Sins*)
- 05/05 - 6:30-9:30pm - Board & Brush Family painting get-together – \$65/person (questions - contact Jen Williams)
www.boardandbrush.com/clive/events/church-christ-girls-outing-private-event

If there is an event you are planning that you want put in the bulletin, let Jason know!

DAILY READING:

- **04/24** – Isaiah 28-30; Psalm 115
- **04/25** – Isaiah 31-35; Psalm 116
- **04/26** – Isaiah 36-38; Psalm 117
- **04/27** – Isaiah 39-41; Psalm 118
- **04/28** – Isaiah 42-44; Psalm 119:1-32
- **04/29** – Isaiah 45-48; Psalm 119:33-64
- **04/30** – Isaiah 49-51; Psalm 119:65-96



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

-Psalm 119:105