

Intro.

- A. Whenever we are overpowered by life's tragedies, stripping away all of our earthly security & hope...
  1. our hearts cry out for help.
  2. Jesus' disciples were no different in many ways to us today.
- B. The text is obviously the basis for the song just sung as \_\_\_\_\_ wrote the lyrics.
  1. The cry of these disciples in the midst of a raging storm is understandable, from human viewpoint.
  2. Even as close as they were to Christ, we identify with their desperation & feeling of helplessness.
  3. There are at least 3 lessons for us to learn from this incident, since the storms we encounter in life are not so unlike.

Discuss.**I. THERE ARE SOME VERY REAL STORMS TO FACE IN LIFE. Mk. 4:37**

- A. This storm on Galilee was out of the ordinary. (S of Gal. = 600 below sea level, & infamous for storms)
  1. In 1<sup>st</sup> Cen. vernacular, the storm told about by Matt., Mk. & Lk. was worse than a *megas* storm.
    - a. *megas* – word used of natural events powerfully effecting the senses, i.q. violent, mighty, strong.
    - b. Matt. Calls the storm *seismos* (from which we obtain our *seismograph*) c. **Ac. 16:26 & Rev. 11:13**
    - c. Mark's word - *lailapse* – means *hurricane whirlwind*, to which he adds the word *megas*.
  2. This violent storm caused the boat to be *filled* (like water pots at the wedding in **Jn. 2**), to the brim!!!
  3. This was a mega, seismic, hurricane – like hurricane Andrew, or like the tornado in Ok. couple yr. ago
- B. Storm in **Mk. 4** is much like the storms we encounter – serious initial pain, dr's report, phone call, knock.
  1. Our tragedies = just as violent, unexpected & consuming,---- so we sing, *Master the tempest is raging...*
  2. Like the apostles, storms come upon us even when we are close to Jesus, & going in same direction.
  3. Storms come f/ diff. directions: *sickness, death, divorce, job loss, family turmoil, disabilities, etc.*
  4. Church storms = among worst kind of storms (division, false teachers, strife, legalism & liberalism.
- C. Storms often are the result of sin.
  1. Those who pursue the pleasures of sin eventually find 'selves tossed & tormented on stormy sea of life.
  2. **Isa. 57:20-21**.describes the condition of a soul desperately in the clutch of sin.
  3. Appro. reaction to realizing our sin: Saul (**c. Ac. 9:9**), sinful woman (**c. Lk. 7:36-50**)
  4. Slaves of sin (**Rom. 6:17f**) need a rescuer to save them from drowning in sin (**Rom. 7:24**).

**II. LOUD CRIES ARE OFTEN HEARD RESULTING FROM LIFE'S STORMS.**

- A. Mark & Luke indicate that all in the ship abruptly woke Jesus – suddenly & thoroughly!!!
  1. Like a mother awakened to the cry of a toddler in sudden pain in middle of night, Jesus heard their cry.
  2. *Lord, save us; we are perishing; Master, Master, we are perishing; Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?* *Perishing* = about to be “put an end to.”
- B. Some of us have sensed the same desperation as this.
  1. Song writer expressed cry of a soul in distress in vs. 2.
  2. When you are in this kind of anguish you can identify w/ David, **Ps. 69:2-4 & 3:7 & 6:2-4, 6-7**
  3. When we cry, is it out of *panic* or is it a plea f/ a calm & serene mind?
- C. In the church there is a cry going up from in times of apostasy that ascend from those anchored in truth.
  1. It's like the cry of Christ in **Heb. 5:7**.
  2. Prayers may even grow tearful when working w/ those *estranged f/ Christ... & fallen f/ grace*, **Gal. 5:4**
- D. There is also the loud cry of the lost who has *sown to the wind & reaped the whirlwind*, **Hosea 8:7**

**III. GENUINE CALM CAN BE FOUND DURING & AFTER THE STORM. Mk. 4:39**

- A. Jesus had to but speak to bring about a *megas* calm which was opposite yet equal to the rage of the storm.
  1. *peace* = to muzzle, or to stop the ability to speak.
  2. storm *ceased* = same as **1 Pet. 4:1** *ceased from sin*. (not a gradual tapering off, but a grinding halt!)
- B. Jesus can calm the storms we face today in similar fashion.

1. In His holy word we find the power & strength that gives tranquility when turmoil had raged.
  2. Jesus is the only one who can give us real, genuine peace, **Jn. 14:27**
  3. The same panicky Peter from the Sea eventually found real peace (**Ac. 12**), seen sleeping in jail cell.
- C. How did he change? Answer is in **Jn. 16:33**
1. Peace is attainable as our faith in God grows (c. **Rom. 4:20-21 & Mt. 8:26 -- & vs. 5-13**, centurion).
  2. Faith grows & peace is found thru knowledge of God's word, **1 Thes. 4:18; Ps. 119:49f, 165.**
  3. Being ready for the *megas* storms of life involves being in a perpetual state of preparation (**Ps. 4:8**)
- D. Storms diminish when Christ is present. **c. Heb. 12:28**
1. True in the church, **Dan. 2:44** – His kgdm. will never be destroyed or left to other people ^
  2. The gtest of sinners can find peace with God (themselves, & fellowmen) *thru Christ* – (**Rom. 5:1**)

Concl.

- A. Are you being tossed about by a storm in your life tonight?
  1. Is your gt. faith keeping you stable?
  2. Are you possessed by a fear & feeling of helplessness that leaves you without hope?
- B. If your family is not going thru storm right now, thank God – but get ready, because the storm is due!
  1. Jesus offers to you a calm serenity amidst life frantic storms, if you will stay close to him.
  2. You need the help & comfort of a storm-stopping Savior if you are staring into another stormy week.
  3. If you are ready to obey God & trust Him to deliver you & carry you through, then accept His invitation now to C-O-M-E.
  4. God will take care of you!