

“Overcoming the Storms of Life”

No one is immune in the battles or storms of life.
No one.

In fact, battles or storms of life do something to us.

Pr Leo Harris once said that “the true character of the person is revealed when he or she is under pressure”.

“Adversity does not build character, it reveals it.”
(James Allen)

A problem or issue or adversity in life doesn’t build our character but reveals our character.

In our text, let us learn some principles that we can apply when we are faced with the Storms of Life.

Text: Matthew 14:22-33

Point # 1. Don’t try to live your life without Jesus.

²²Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

They left the place knowing that Jesus was not with them.

As much as obedience is important, there is something more powerful than obedience. What is more powerful than obedience is His Presence.

Sometimes you need to stay put and say to the Lord, **“Lord I am not going anywhere. I will wait for you.”**

Exodus 33: 14-15

And the LORD answered, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” “If Your Presence does not go with us,” Moses replied, “do not lead us up from here.”

Moses knew the difference between living with His Presence and without His Presence.

The Lord wrought mighty miracles under Moses' leadership.

That is why we need to say, **“Lord I am going nowhere, I will not leave without you.”**

Why? Because his Presence alone can make a big difference in our life.

The way of those walking with Christ will always lead to life.

Prov. 12:28, *“In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway, there is no death.”*

While living your life with Jesus, the next thing we need to do is to PRAY – Commune with Him.

Point # 2. Find time to pray.

²³And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

Jesus is our great example with regard to prayer. Jesus in His busy schedule was able to find time to pray.

A prayerful life is a powerful life and a prayerless life is a powerless life.

Seeking solitude is important and a priority for Jesus.

Prayer must be important and a priority to us.

He made room from his busy schedule to be alone with the Father.

To build a strong relationship, we need to communicate.

Prayer is our means of communication with God.

James 4:8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

How do we draw near to God?

The answer is through **prayer**.

The secret of prayer is praying in a **secret place**.

Matthew 6:6

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Prayer is designed to foster that quality relationship with God.

Without prayer, without communication, there will be no strong relationship.

Spending time with God our Father in prayer **nurtures** our vital relationship and **equips us to meet life's challenges and struggles**.

When struggles, offences, problems and issues come our way we need to...

Point # 3. Keep our eyes on Jesus.

²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

²⁹So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

Always keep our eyes on Jesus.

In our most difficult moment, that is where we need to understand, whether we feel it or not, that the **Saviour, the Master, is there to stretch out His arms to save us and meet us at the very point of our need.**

Point # 4. Let Jesus in for He alone can calm your storm.

Matt. 14:23

Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.” And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

When Jesus got into the boat, the storm, the bad weather ceased.

Jesus is 100% man and 100% God – the Son of God.

Jesus indeed is the Son of the Living God.

Read Luke 4:41; Matt.3:17; Matt. 16:16; Rev. 1:17

Yes, as a human He suffered and died on the cross. Jesus being the perfect sacrifice, through whom we receive forgiveness from all our sins and attain grace and eternal salvation.

Yes, He died on the cross for you and me. His dead body was taken down and buried in a tomb. But on the third day, He rose again, holding the power of life and death and He said, "Because I live, you will live also".

Whatever you are going through in life right now, allow Christ to enter your boat. Why?

Because Jesus alone can calm your storm!

Reflection...

What do you see in your own life that parallels Peter's attempt to walk on water?

What difference do you see in a difficult situation when your eyes are on Jesus or when they are on the situation?

At this very moment, where do you sense God is inviting you to "get out of the boat" right now?

Always remember to keep your eyes on Jesus, for He alone can calm your storms.