

Life Storms

I. Slide#1 Announce:

- A. **Slide#2a St. Patrick's day:** Did you know the **shamrock** was *a sacred plant* in ancient Ireland because it symbolized *the rebirth of spring*. Our Springs rebirth is this Wed, 3/20.
1. From a cold-dead winter **to** the beautiful life of Spring.
 2. **Slide#2b** March 31st we celebrate the real **death come to life** in the celebration of **the Resurrection of Jesus Christ**. Join us outdoors, 7:30am, lower campus.
- B. **Slide#3 In His Fields:** Dave LeCompte
1. **Slide#4** Dave behind us is a picture of Chechnya before & after...**What has taken place over there?**
 2. **Slide#5** **What is drawing your heart back to Chechnya?** [kids that had gotten saved or that you knew from before. Small # of Chechens saved. Maleeka & Adreese]
 3. **Slide#6** **Explain the Well project you're starting up.** [Helen & Ken moving there]
 4. **What are some opportunities for ministry in the future?** [Teach English; Pediatricians(explain State of the Art Hospitals) PTSD; MMA Fighters]
 5. **Slide#7** **How people can partner with you now? Needs?**

II. Slide#8 Intro: **Life's Storms** Mrk.4:35-41

- A. **Slide#9 St. Patrick was neither Irish nor Roman Catholic**
1. Born in Britain. Carried off by pirates at age 16. **He was forced to work as a slave in Ireland**. After 6 years, during which he experienced a conversion, he then escaped & returned to Britain & his family.
 2. Later, he had a night vision in which he received a call to evangelize Ireland. **St. Patrick ended up becoming the greatest single force in the Christianization of Ireland**. Way to Go Pat! **Makes me want to go Green**.
 3. **I would say getting yanked from your homeland as a junior in H.S. & live as a slave till your 22 would have been a pretty tough Life Storm to ride out.**
 - a) But he did so, by experiencing **the presence** of Jesus!
- B. After a long day of **teaching**...time for some **practical tests** to see what they've learned!
1. **Slide#10** **This storm was part of the day's curriculum.** [Storm theology 101]
 - a) The **journey of this boat** is **a picture** of the **journey of life**.
 2. **Slide#11a+b** **Jesus can You be trusted in the storms of life?**
 3. Many think that storms only come when they've **disobeyed** God.

- a) **Jonah** ended up in a storm because of his **disobedience**; The **disciples** got into a storm because of their **obedience**.

III. Slide#12 **LESSONS ON THE SEA (35,36)**

A. Slide#13a Crisis = [from Greek krisis “*decisive moment*”]

1. Crisis is a situation or period in which things are very *uncertain, difficult, or painful*.
2. Crisis is a **critical moment**: a time when something very important for the future happens or is decided.

B. Slide#13b Crisis is a **good thing**...it helps people *change*!

1. God knows that, **and lovingly** provides those times of crisis for **us**.
2. They can come in countless forms: *disaster; catastrophe; emergency; calamity; predicament; job loss; spouse loss; child loss; etc.*
3. Remember Issac Newton *First Law of Motion*, “Everything continues in a state of rest unless it is **compelled to change** by forces impressed upon it.”
 - a) No one is willing to do *real Change* until *real Crisis* comes!
4. **Some** people will **change** when they **see the light**; **others change** only when they **feel the heat**!
5. Just as we **vaccinate** our children w/the very disease we don't want them to get, **to build up their immune system**; **So** Christ builds our **Spiritual Immune System** w/ Slide#13c storms, waves, wind, trials!

C. Jesus **can** be trusted in the storms of life.

1. You can sail **with Him** right into a **sea** of tribulation.
2. **With Him** you'll never suffer the *shipwreck of your soul*.

D. It's like soaring like a kite. You have to run right **into/against** the wind...to make it go *up,up,up!*

E. Slide#14 Time for R&R (36) - The **eastern** shore was relatively uninhabited.

F. Slide#15 Sea of Galilee - 700' below sea level (**13m. Long** x **8m.wide**) [Lake Elsinore is 6m.x1.5m.]

1. Situated in a pocket, hills on every side. Wind would rush down the ravines from the *Mediterranean Sea* causing a sudden whirlwind action. [see red arrow]
2. The **waves** kept **beating into** the boat. It was **already filling** w/water.

IV. Slide#16 **CHICKEN OF THE SEA (37, 38b, 41)**

A. Slide#17a **Do you not care?** (38) We've all asked Him...*Aren't you concerned? Don't you know? If you were only here earlier? Don't you care?...*Of course He does!

1. It is much easier to trust God when the **sun is shining**, **than** to trust Him when the **storm is raging** around us.

- a) He **does** care if you *spiritually* drown!
- b) Don't be hasty to think He **doesn't care**...even when your *sinking* and He seems to be *asleep* in the stern.
- B. Slide#17b We are perishing – **WE?** [Really, Jesus is going to sink?]
- Hymn: No waters can swallow the ship, where lies,
The Master of ocean & earth & skies.
 - The **storm** couldn't disturb Him, **but** the **unbelief** of His disciples did!
- C. Maybe you've asked, **Jesus, why did you fall asleep at this important time in my life?**
- Although God does not always shield us from the destructiveness of all life's storms. He can always be trusted to be there in the storm with us!¹
- D. If you sense Jesus is asleep in the storm you're going thru...*relax!*
- If you sense Jesus is not **doing anything** it means: *He's not pacing. He's not anxious. He's not worried. He's resting!*
 - You too may **rest**, though that isn't easy.
 - Slide#18 Remember also, at any moment Jesus can **stand up & speak a word**, and **immediately the storm will stop**.
 - How many times have you made Him stop the testing **early**?
 - How many times have you **rode out** the storm, w/Christ on your vessel?
- E. Seasoned sailors with cowardly terror. (40)
- Jesus didn't stop w/the **calming of the elements**, **for** that wasn't their greatest danger, **it was** the **unbelief** of their **hearts**!
 - Our greatest problems are **within us not around us**!
 - Slide#19a The Master that day taught His disciples that the cure for fear is **faith**!
 - Fear** is looking **at the storm**; **faith** is looking **at the Savior**;
 - Fear** is looking **at the circumstances**; **faith** is looking **at God**!
 - Oh & what was it like to be in one of the other little boats?** (36b)
 - Oswald Chambers said, "Beware of worshipping Jesus as the Son of God, and professing your faith in Him as the Savior of the world, **while** you blaspheme Him by the complete evidence in your daily life that He is **powerless** to do anything in and through you." *ouch!*
- F. (41) Now they feared **exceedingly**, in a **different way**.
- This time it was **AWE** in the face of the majestic **power & presence** of **Christ**.

¹ Shepherd's Notes, Mark, pg.33

2. Fear of God eliminates cowardly fear!
 - a) “The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom!”
 3. Slide#19b [lit.] Who then is this? – They knew He could forgive sins, cast out demons, heal all sorts of diseases, but now even the wind & waves obeyed Him.
 - a) This must mean He is in constant control of every situation!
 - b) Which situation can you apply this truth to in your life today?
- G. Don't only Wonder w/the Intellect, but Worship w/the Heart!

V. Slide#20 LORD HIGH ADMIRAL OF THE SEA (38a, 39, 40)

- A. So here we have The Lord High Admiral of the sea, right next to the Chicken of the sea!
- B. Slide#21 Peace, be still (39) – Or, be muzzled, & stay muzzled.
1. Lenski, “Put the muzzle on & keep it on”
 2. A great calm – A double miracle here. Not only the wind above the sea, but also the current below.
 - a) I can't even speak to the Carbonation of a Coke running over the top of my glass, “no, no, no”, and have it listen to me!
 - b) Slide#22 Prov. 30:4 Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know?
- C. Slide#23 Jesus' trust in His Great Father was so firm that He rocked in the cradle of the deep!
1. His disciples caused Him more disquiet than the storm.
 - a) They awoke Him, not the wind, not the waves, not the boat filling w/water, not the rocking back & forth, not the noise. None of these woke Him, They Did!
- D. What a great cry though: “Lord” “Save us” “We are Perishing”.
- E. Make Jesus your anchor, your rudder, your lighthouse, your life-boat, & even your harbor!
1. Jesus, fully man (asleep from fatigue) & fully God (calming the storm).
- F. Jesus showed Himself Lord over the Natural realm & next week He will over the Supernatural realm. [They don't even realize they're heading right into another storm]

VI. Slide#24 3 REASONS NOT TO FEAR

- A. Slide#25 They had His promise they were going to the other side! [Promise]
1. To the other side, He didn't say, “to the middle of the lake to be drowned!”
 2. His commandments are His enablement's!
 3. He didn't promise an easy trip, but He did guarantee arrival at their destination.

a) And so w/salvation.

B. Slide#26 *Jesus* was with them! [Presence]

1. Is Jesus' **presence** in your life enough?

a) In Ex.3 God's **presence** wasn't enough for Moses, he needed the dramatic & spectacular. [rt after burning bush & promise "*I will certainly be with you*" 3:12]

b) In Ex.33 God's **presence** was all that mattered to him.

(1) **Context:** After God was so mad w/golden calf event, He finally said, "*Depart & go up from here...& I'll send My Angel before you*(33:1,2). Moses said, "*If Your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.*" (33:15)

2. They already had seen His **power** demonstrated in His **miracles**, they should have had **complete confidence** He could handle **this situation**.

3. They hadn't realized He is **Master** of **every situation**...Have you?

a) **Even**...Bankruptcy, disease, tragedy, enslaved w/addiction, your fortunes lost in the stock market, a marriage lost to infidelity, one of your kids went prodigal on you.

b) **Every situation?** - *A financial storm? A business storm? A professional storm? A college storm? A household storm? A marriage storm? A medical storm?*

4. Again, His goal is to **strengthen** you...not **shipwreck** you!

C. Slide#27 *Jesus* was **perfectly at peace**! [Peace]

1. David said, **I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.** Ps.4:8

D. Slide#28 **Prayer:** He displays His power in the **whirlwind** and the **storm**. The **billowing clouds** are the dust beneath his feet. Nahum 1:3b [Life storms]