

Sermon Reflections

Battling Life's Storms (John 6:16-21)

Guest Teacher: Rich Ryan (former pastor-Teacher)

Summary: Even though we may feel alone through life's trials, we are not. The Almighty Christ is with us, working His perfect plan through us in every trial. What is He teaching you?

Passage Context: In John 6:1-21, Jesus shows Himself as a new and greater Moses who is leading His people on a final exodus from the bondage of sin and death. His people are safe in His good and providential care.

Five Simple Reminders for Life's Storms:

1. Sometimes God Commands Us into Life's Storms (v. 16)

- Jesus sent His disciples into the trial of the storm. What are other examples in the Bible of people being sent into trials? What trials are you currently facing? How does James 1:2-4 describe God's purpose for trials?
- What question should we ask ourselves in life's storms: Why is this happening *or* what is God trying to teach me? How does the reality that God directs us into storms (in His sovereign plan) affect how we react to and deal with life's struggles?

2. Sometimes it is Very Dark in Life's Storms (v. 17a)

- Imagine that you're on a road, driving 50 mph in the dark. There are no cars or houses in sight. Your lights suddenly stop working and your brakes explode. Would you feel in control at that moment? Did Jesus' disciples feel in control of their situation?
- Read Psalm 139:1-12. What do these verses reveal about God's character? How should this revelation give us hope in very dark times?

3. Sometimes You Feel Very Alone in Life's Storms (v. 17b)

- What truths do believers need to hear in the midst of the storm? Think back to Psalm 139. What truth in this Psalm comforts you?
- If we know we are not alone (i.e. God has not abandoned us), why do we feel alone? What means of grace has God provided to help us remain faithful, and not isolated, through life's storms? (See 2 Cor 7:5-7; Eph 5:16-21; Heb 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:10-11.)

4. Sometimes You Have to Fight for Faith in Life's Storms (vv. 18-19)

- Read Matthew 8:23-27. In what ways do the disciples respond differently to this storm than they did to the first one? What does this tell us about the purpose of trials?
- How should we, as believers, act and live so that we may be spiritually mature enough to fight for our faith when trials come?

5. Always, God is Able to Rescue You through Any Storm (vv. 20-21)

- Are you fully trusting in Christ right now through the storms of your life? How does John 6:16-21 speak to our fears? Who is the One who commands you, "do not be afraid" (v. 20)?
- How can we find relief in Christ before the rescue? What does Christ's ultimate rescue in the Gospel assure us about God, and His plans for us?