



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“From Our House to Your House: Open Book Test”

Sr. Pastor James Lowe – May 24, 2020

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- If you could start your own business, what would it be?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Jesus Calms a Storm Mark 4:35-41

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

In the verses prior to Mark 4:35, Jesus was on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where he taught the disciples and the large crowd that had gathered. He taught in parables about the Kingdom of God, instructing:

- To hold as dear and protect God’s word; Satan will try to take it away with tribulations or by entangling people with the cares of the world.
- By the same measure God’s word is used, it is given back.
- To have faith even though it cannot be known how it will work out or come to fruition.
- That small faith would grow to be mighty and powerful.

After teaching all day, Jesus asked the disciples to take him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Know that this body of water was positioned in a deep basin with a tropical climate. The cold wind from surrounding mountains could cause a furious storm without warning.

The disciples and other boats saw no sign of a storm, otherwise they may not have left, and especially with no preparations as Jesus had instructed. The disciples set sail not knowing they were about to be tested on the very things they had learned that day.

Jesus was sleeping when the storm hit. Fear overwhelmed the disciples and they frantically cried out to Jesus, asking if he did not care about them. Jesus now awake, squelched the storm. Normally a storm took considerable time for the water to calm and the wind to gradually cease. It was clearly the power of God that instantly changed the situation. Then Jesus rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith.

The disciples were not completely lacking in faith. Otherwise they may have asked, “Can you save us?” They knew his power, but they had to learn that that power was available to them and for them. Also, the disciples had enough faith to leave everything and follow Jesus. This day was part of their training, building a relationship with God through revelation of who Jesus was and, learning how to practically apply their faith in Jesus, no matter the situation.

Augustine (400 A.D.) said, "We are sailing in this life as through a sea, and the wind rises, and storms of temptation are not wanting. Whence is this, save because Jesus is sleeping in thee, thy faith in Jesus is slumbering in thy heart? Rouse him and say, Master, we perish. He will awaken (i.e. thy faith will return to thee), and the danger will be over." *Teachers' Guide to International Sunday School Lessons for [Jan.-Dec.] 1912, Martha Tarbell PhD, p.299.*

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- From this reading, what points to Jesus as Son of Man and to Jesus as Son of God?
- What are ways we build our faith?
- Share a personal experience that you keep as a reminder when your faith is tested.

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank Jesus for saving us and the world and all that that entails in the day and for eternity.
- Pray that we can be instruments of great faith so that “other boats” around us are not only physically saved from the storm, but they choose to be saved by faith in Jesus Christ.
- Pray that fear does not take equal turns with our faith, and that as we move closer to the hour of our complete redemption, it does not even take a turn.