

Through The Storms and the Fires

Isaiah 43:2-3

2When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.³For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour:

The Disciples (Called, Witnesses to Miracles)

Luke 5:1-11

1And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing *their* nets.

3And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, **Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.**

5And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

7And they beckoned unto *their* partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

8When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

9For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

10And so *was* also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, **Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.**

11And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Simon (Peter) Andrew his brother as well as James and John are witness to the miracle of the catching of the fishes. They were so astonished by this miracle and the teaching of Jesus that they forsook all and followed him immediately.

MIRACLES and TEACHINGS THEY WITNESSED

Matthew 4:23-24

23And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

24And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Matthew 5:1-2

1And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

2 and he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

(Sermon on the mount (Matthew 5:3- 7-27))

Matthew 8:1-3

1When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him.

2And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

3And Jesus put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, **I will; be thou clean.** And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Mark 1:23-34

23And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,
24Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

25And Jesus rebuked him, saying, **Hold thy peace, and come out of him.**

26And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him.

27And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine *is* this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.

28And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.

29 And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John.

30But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.

31And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.

32And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.

33And all the city was gathered together at the door.

34And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

Mark 4:1-2

1And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,
(Parable of the Sower Mark 4:3-20)

Luke 8:1

1And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve *were* with him,

Mark 4:34

34But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

Luke 8:1

1And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him,

THE STORM**Mark 4:35-41**

35And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, **Let us pass over unto the other side.**

36And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40And he said unto them, **Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?**

41And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

How is it that the very disciples that witnessed Jesus perform miracles heal the sick, and cast out demons would have no faith when the storm came and the waters beat the ship? Did they not realize who they were in the boat with?

Jesus was in the hinder part of the ship asleep. Even though Jesus was in the hinder part asleep, He was still with them in the ship. Even being witness to the workings of Jesus they were still afraid and of no faith. Did they forget who was on the ship?

Today many of us forget who was on the ship. It is sad to know that many times we limit Jesus in working in our lives through times of trouble because of our unbelief. **Matthew 13:58** *And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.* We see Jesus as far away in the 'hinder part of the ship' not realizing that he is ever near us through the storms. **Psalms 46:1-3** *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof.* Through the storms Jesus is with us.

Walk Upon Water

Matthew 14:14-33

14And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

15And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.

16But Jesus said unto them, **They need not depart; give ye them to eat.**

17And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes.

18He said, **Bring them hither to me.**

19And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to *his* disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

20And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full.

21And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

22And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

23And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

24But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

25And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, **Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.**

28And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29And he said, **Come.** And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, **O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?**

32And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

33Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

Mark 6:49-52

49But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:

50For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, **Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.**

51And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.

52For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.

How soon the disciples forgot the miracle of the feeding of the multitude with five loaves of bread and two fishes. As Jesus was performing another miracle by walking on the sea through the storm they did not recognize Him. Often we

too do not recognize the miracles and gifts Jesus performs and gives in our lives. Peter had the faith to step off the ship into the stormy sea and he walked on the water to go to Jesus, but when Peter took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the boisterous wind instead of Jesus he became afraid and began to sink. We too can have our faith shaken if we take our eyes and hearts off Jesus and focus on the situation; the trial or tribulation. When we lose sight of Jesus in our times of need we too will sink under the burden of the situation, but praise Jesus if we will but pray to Jesus He is faithful to stretch forth His hand full of mercy and grace to catch us and put us upon a firm foundation.

Through The Fire

Daniel 3:12-14, 16-19, 24-28

12There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

13Then Nebuchadnezzar in *his* rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

14Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, *Is it* true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

16Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

18But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: *therefore* he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

24Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonied, and rose up in haste, *and* spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, *and* , and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come *hither*. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28*Then* Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed *be* the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

The will of God is the safest place to be, whether in the raging sea or in a fiery furnace. Jesus is with us. Nebuchadnezzar commanded Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be thrown into the furnace, cast through the door, but to his amazement where there were three, there now appeared four. God is with us through the trials that this life brings and often through the fire we are refined to be able to fulfill the purposes God has for us in this life. **1Peter 1:7** *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Stand fast in your faith Jesus in on the ship with us and in the furnace, so don't let your faith waver and trials and tribulations may not be punishment but rather opportunity for a promotion in the Kingdom.*

JESUS SAVES

R.E. G.

In shady, green pastures, so rich and so sweet,
God leads His dear children along;
Where the water's cool flow bathes the weary one's feet,
God leads His dear children along.

- *Refrain:*
Some through the waters, some through the flood,
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.

Sometimes on the mount where the sun shines so bright,
God leads His dear children along;
Sometimes in the valley, in darkest of night,
God leads His dear children along.

Though sorrows befall us and evils oppose,
God leads His dear children along;
Through grace we can conquer, defeat all our foes,
God leads His dear children along.

Away from the mire, and away from the clay,
God leads His dear children along;
Away up in glory, eternity's day,
God leads His dear children along.

George A. Young -1903