

That Titanic feeling,
Sinking your ship, not floating your boat

Mt. 8:23-27

Intro: Icebergs are fascinating things. Big, beautiful, but dangerous in the right circumstances. We have all heard the story of the cruise ship "The Titanic" It was the ship that was to be unsinkable. Then all of a sudden after striking an iceberg it went down taking many to their death. This great ship was even billed as the "Unsinkable Ship" although history proved otherwise.

Sometimes we go along in life, things seem to be doing okay and like the men who built the Titanic, we may get the feeling that we will have smooth sailing when all of a sudden, "Disaster." What can a person do when the ship **called life** hits an iceberg **called problems** and we are in danger of sinking? Lets look at

I. VARIETIES OF STORMS WE FACE

1. **Situational** storms. This is when circumstances seem to plot against you and everything seems to go wrong. Proverbs 1:27 says *"Sometimes adversity strikes us like a storm."*

Have you ever been in a situation where everything seems to go wrong at once and with what seems to be lightening speed. One thing right after the other and it is still Monday and the rest of the week seems destined for downhill. Situational storms can be very disruptive.

2. **Relational** storms. This is when there is tension between people. When a relationship has been strained to the breaking point. Have you ever been in a situation where the storm has raged because you have been upset with a friend or family member, or them with you?

Did it feel like or did you think your boat might sink? David knew the feeling well. Hear what he says in Psalm 102:7,8 *"I feel all alone and my enemies are ganging up against me and nobody's with me."* He was in a relational storm.

3. **Emotional** storms. These are often hidden on the surface. We have a nice smile, but inside we're seething and boiling and all in distress. Many times there's a storm going on inside of us that doesn't even show. Maybe we are paralyzed by fear or, overcome by guilt. Maybe we are raging with anger or consumed with worry or jealousy. Those are the storms of life. You don't happen to wear a mask with a big smile on it do you, when underneath you really are being tossed about by an emotional storm?

II. THREE THINGS ABOUT THE STORMS OF LIFE

A. Storms in life are **inevitable**.

They will happen and they will happen to you and to me because they are a part of life. In James 1:2 it says "*When you face trials...*" Not if but when. Nobody goes through life sailing easy from cradle to grave. Scott Peck, in his book *The Road Less Traveled*, the very first sentence says, "Life is difficult."

The reason life is difficult because storms are inevitable. Most people don't mind obstacles as long as they don't get in their way but sooner or later they will.

B. Storms are **unpredictable**. They come suddenly. They come unexpectedly. They are unpredictable. V 24 says that "*Suddenly, a terrible storm came up,*"

Try as we may, we cannot predict the things that will happen to us. We'll try anything to see if today's going to be a good day or a bad day. The reason we can't predict storms is because they are unpredictable, erratic, often violent, and often impulsive .

C. Storms are **impartial**. They happen to good people and bad people. They happen to believers and unbelievers. They happen to rich people and to the poor. Storms pick no favorites because they are impartial and come to all of us.

Matthew 5:45 For he gives his sunlight, or his cheer and blessings, to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain, or problems and trials, not only to good people but also to the bad and mean people as well.

Being a Christian does not exempt us from being in storms. Trials are not bad - There's a place reserved for those without trials - it's called a cemetery. Since storms are inevitable, unpredictable and impartial then the issue really becomes, what is my response going to be to the storms that are inevitably going to happen in my life?

III. TWO WAYS WE CAN RESPOND TO STORMS

They are seen in this story in the way the disciples responded and in the way that Jesus responded. One responded in fear, one responded in faith. One trembled, one responded in trust.

A. WHEN WE FACE A STORM, WE CAN BE FILLED WITH PANIC.

The disciples went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

Their reaction was "We are gonners! We're gonna die!" This was a major, major storm and they panicked, got up tight and were afraid. Jesus actually asks them in the next verse, *"Why are you afraid?"* That is our typical reaction when a storm comes. We react in fear.

B. WHEN WE FACE A STORM, WE CAN BE FILLED WITH PEACE.

The alternative to being filled with panic is being filled with peace. In V 24 *"But Jesus was sleeping."* Sleeping in a storm? Where in the world can we get that kind of peace in a storm? We can get it when we apply three principles taught in this passage. When it seems like our ship has hit an iceberg, when we have that Titanic feeling in the pit of our stomach as the problems mount, we can do three things, or

IV. THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

A. FIRST, WE NEED TO REMEMBER GOD'S CLOSENESS.

He is near you, He is with you, you are not by yourself. In The NASB V 23 says *And when He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.*

They had nothing to fear. Jesus is in the boat and according to the text he even took the lead in getting in, and I am pretty sure he knew what was in store. Do you think God's going to let the boat sink with Jesus in it? I doubt it. That in itself should have calmed them. Jesus Christ was there with them, experiencing the storm with them.

If we're going to make it through a storm, the first lesson we've got to learn is this: God is always with me. There will be nothing I will face the rest of my life that I face alone because, if I am saved, Jesus is in the boat of my life with me.

Matthew 28:20 says *And be sure of this, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*

God has promised in Hebrews 13:5 these words, *"I will never leave you nor forsake, or abandon or desert you."*

Isaiah 43:1-2 says *But now, O Israel, the LORD who created you says: "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you."*

You could say it like this When you go through deep waters and great trouble and you have hit an iceberg in the cold waters of trials, Don't worry because I will be with you and I will be your life raft if you will just trust me

B. WE NEED TO RELAX IN GOD'S CARE

The typical response when we go through a storm is to wonder, Does God even care? Notice what the disciples said, Mark's account. Mark. 4:38 says *"The disciples said to Him, 'Teacher, don't You care that we are going to drown?'"*

That's the common response we ask in a tragedy. Don't You care what's going on, God? The answer is, Of course He cares. God's people are not without trial nor without their God in the midst of their trials

This is the second great lesson that we must learn if we're going to make it through storms and hitting those icebergs on our journey: It is the lesson that God cares about what we go through and then relax in that care. I Peter 5:7 says *Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you and He can handle it, so just relax and let Him*

C. WE NEED TO RELY ON GOD'S CONTROL

Mark 4:39 *When he woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the water, "Quiet down!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and it was completely calm.*

The "Message" uses these words of our modern language to describe the situation. *He told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, "Quiet! Settle down!" The wind ran out of breath; the sea became as smooth as glass.*

Lesson number three is, if you're going to make it through the inevitable, unavoidable, and to be expected, storms and iceberg collisions in life: God is with me, God cares about what I'm going through and He is in control.

Jeremiah 32:17 reminds us with these words: *"O Sovereign LORD! You have made the heavens and earth by your great power. Nothing is too hard for you!"*

Maybe you feel like the circumstances of life are tossing you back and forth and you feel like you're just a little toy boat out there in a big ocean. You're thinking, I have hit an iceberg and "I'm going under! I'm not going to make it!" "I have that Titanic feeling about this"

If that's the way you feel, God wants to say to you today, No matter how big the wave or powerful the iceberg is, Jesus can rebuke the wave or move the icebergs in your path. He wants to calm the storms in your life. He wants to say, *"Peace! Be still!"*

There's only one thing that can calm the storms in your future and keep your boat from sinking in the trials of life and that is -- Jesus Christ so why not learn to rely on Him today.

In closing, if you do not have Jesus in your boat and, if you want to be ready for the upcoming storms in your life, why not invite Him into your boat. You can do that by reading and following the directions in these next few lines.

Realize you are a sinner Romans 3:23

Understand that the payday for sin is death or eternal conscious separation from God.
Romans 6:23a

Know that there is a way of escape for you. Romans 6:23b and John 1:12

Desire to escape and pray this or a similar prayer.

"Dear God, I know I am a sinner. I am truly sorry for my sins, and I confess them all to You [name them]. Lord Jesus, forgive all my sins and come into my heart as my Saviour and Lord. I receive You right now. Help me from this time forward to live for You. Thank You for hearing and answering my prayer. In Jesus' name. Amen."

On the _____ day of _____ I became a Christian by inviting Jesus Christ into my life to forgive my sin.

Signed: _____

If you have further questions or have chosen to do this, be sure to let us know so we can help you, pray for you and encourage you in your new life.

You can reach us at lapeerchurch@gmail.com Subject line: (Salvation)