

STORM TESTED FAITH

Jesus On Mission -- Part 2

March 23, 2014

James 1:2-3 (NLT) *“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.”*

Your faith grows the most when it is tested.

FACTS ABOUT STORMS...

- They are **INEVITABLE**

James 1:2 (NCV) *“...when you have many kinds of troubles...”*

- They are **UNPREDICTABLE**

Matthew 8:24 (NIV) *“Suddenly, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat.”*

- They are **IMPARTIAL**

Matthew 5:45b (NIV) *“He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”*

TWO POSSIBLE REACTIONS...

1. You can be filled with **FEAR**.

Matthew 8:25 (NLT) *“The disciples went to Him and woke Him up, shouting, ‘Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!’”*

2. You can be filled with **FAITH**.

Matthew 8:24b (NLT) *“...But Jesus was sleeping.”*

HOW TO MAKE IT THROUGH...

1. Remember God’s **CLOSENESS**.

Matthew 8:23 (NLT) *“Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with His disciples.”*

God is always with you.

Isaiah 43:1b-2a (NIV) *“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you... you are Mine. ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.”*

2. Relax in God’s **CARE**.

Mark 4:38b (NIV) *“The disciples woke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher, don’t You care if we drown?’”*

God cares about what you are going through.

1 Peter 5:7 (NIV) *“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.”*

3. Rely on God’s **CONTROL**.

Mark 4:39 (NIV) *“He (Jesus) got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Quiet! Be still!’ Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.”*

If you’re going to make it through the storms in life you need to trust that God is in control.

Jeremiah 32:17 (NIV) *“Ah, Sovereign LORD, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You.”*

Matthew 8:26a (NIV) *“You of little faith, why are you so afraid?”*

The secret of victory over fear is faith.

Hebrews 11:6a (NIV) *“And without faith it is impossible to please God...”*

Matthew 8:27 (NIV) *“The men were amazed and asked, ‘What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey Him!’”*