

When It Seems like God Doesn't Care

Introduction

- Happens to me from time/time, not very often but occlly, when I begin to wonder whether God even cares. Something happens to me, my family; or more often, something happens to you, members of my cong – some heartbreaking disaster that seems come at worst possible time, shows no signs of relenting. And I wonder: “Why, God? Why letting this happen? Doesn't seem like you care.” Ever feel that way?
- Discs did, that day on Sea of Galilee.

³⁵ *That day when evening came, [Jesus] said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.”* ³⁶ *Leaving the crowd behind, they took [Jesus] along, just as he was, in the boat.*

- This particular day: very busy for Jesus. All day long: healing diseases, preaching kingdom God. By eve, exhausted, ready get some rest. So he/discs set off on journey, by boat; began cross to other side lake.
- In sense, we're on journey too; we're crossing lake. Throughout our lives, we stay so busy doing so many things. But always looking forward to our heavenly rest with Jesus. So we're crossing lake, heading for that distant shore of heaven.
- But along way, storms blow in.

³⁷ *A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.*

- Sea of Galilee, really just big freshwater lake. ~1/3 size Lake Winnebago. 8 miles wide, 13 long. I've been there; beautiful. Tall hills that rise on all sides; Jesus used to teach on those hills. But those hills also put lake down in deep bowl. When hot air from desert mixes with cool air from lake, stormy conditions can spring up quickly.
- This particular storm must've been exceptionally strong and must've come on very quickly. And these were experienced fishermen; been on rough water before. But there in mid lake, with winds howling, waves crashing over boat, the discs got scared; afraid they might go under.
- Sometimes exceptionally strong storms blow into our lives, as well. And can come on very quickly. All takes is one car accident, one heart attack, one report from doctor, one phone call, one unforeseen expense, one catastrophe to brew up a storm. And we're exp Xians; we've seen tough times before. But when hurricane force storms of life get stirred up all sudden, broadside our boat; winds howling around us, waves crashing over – we get scared, afraid we might go under. And wonder: where's Jesus when need him most?

³⁸ *Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don't you care if we drown?”*

- I'm surprised every time read this. Wonder: how in world could Jesus be asleep?! I know had been long day. But not like this was pleasant little boat ride over quiet water. You've got boat rocking back/forth, up/down, water splashing on you, wind howling, discs scrambling/yelling at each other, trying steady boat?! You're asleep?! Discs surprised, too; and felt like Jesus didn't care. **Vs 38b!** That's a cry for help; but also accusation. “Jesus, this your idea in first place, to cross lake. We know you have power to help. But you're not doing anything. Why aren't you helping? Seems like you don't care!”
- Ever gone through troubling time in your life, when seemed like God didn't care? Maybe going through something like that right now! You're working hard, doing best you can to get through some disaster. But seems like God's just sleeping away. You cry out for help, but really more of accusation. “Jesus, I'm Xian, on your side. I know you have power to help. But you're not doing anything. Why letting this happen? Why aren't you helping? Just going sit by, let me suffer through? Just ignore, not show any mercy, not bring any healing? Not going help at all? Just going sleep? Do you even care?”
- Friends, when it seems like God doesn't care, remember this:

³⁹ [Jesus] got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

- I can picture Jesus sitting up from nap, looking around, then standing up, facing storm. Now discs stop scrambling, watch Jesus to see what he'll do next. And he stretches arms out over water; and with calm but commanding voice simply says, "Quiet! Be still!" And in that moment: rain stops falling, wind stops blowing, waves stop crashing, clouds peel back, sun breaks through, water becomes calm, and all is still.
- With simple, unassuming word (just like at creation!), Jesus unleashes his almighty power and does what only God can do. Even today humans cannot stop forces of nature. But creation must obey its creator. That's the power of Jesus: everything became calm.
- Bet you can think time in your life, storms of life howling; but everything ended well bec Jesus calmed storm. Realistically, I bet you can also think time didn't; time when storm raged on; seemed to be no happy ending. You would say: "Pastor, know where going – he calmed that storm, so means he's going calm all storms in my life. Well guess what: he didn't. Still dealing with issues in my life that don't seem be getting better. When's he going calm my storm?"
- To you I'd say this: another time Jesus did not calm the storm. At hill called Golgotha outside Jerusalem, Jesus did not calm the storm. There, the pent up tempest of God's raging wrath against our sins was poured out with cataclysmic force upon Jesus Christ as hung nailed to cross. And he certainly had power to stop it. Told his discs, "**Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?**" (Mt 26:53). Had power! And yet cared/cares so much you/me, that he did not calm that storm.
- So when it seems like God doesn't care, you need to look at Jesus on cross. Look at his love; and look at his power: power not only to still a storm, but power to not still a storm when knows best. It was for us that he endured storm of God's wrath, so that we would never have to. On cross, took our place, bore our punishment, paid for our sins, to rescue us from greatest storm of judgment and hell. Does God care? Of course cares! Cross is proof. Look at Jesus; put faith in him.
- When all waters on Sea of Galilee calmed down,...

⁴⁰ [Jesus] said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

- Jesus used this storm to strengthen their faith. Wanted discs to trust in him completely and to find in Jesus one who is not only mightier than the mightiest of storms but who also will calm a storm when knows best. Same true us: when hurricane force winds batter our boat and threaten to capsize our vessel, Jesus is teaching us to trust in him completely. Wants us to find in Jesus an almighty, loving Savior, who's not only mightier than any storm but who will also calm a storm when he knows best. Jesus uses storms of life to strengthen our faith in him.

⁴¹ [The disciples] were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

- For rest of lives, these discs never forgot that experience on lake. Neither should we, because in many ways we can relate. We all are still at sea, still navigating to that distant shore, in heaven. Impossible to cross lake without encountering storms. But Jesus always with us; always right there in the boat. And even when it seems he's asleep in stern, not helping, not caring: he is always right there, watching over you, guiding your vessel in ways he knows are best.
- Christian life is like being in boat on water in storm. A tempest rages around you; and a tempest rages within you. Two storms: storms of life and of doubt. "Does God really care about me? Look what's happening!" Dear bro/sis in Xp: when it seems like God doesn't care, look at Jesus with arms stretched out on cross, and look at Jesus with arms stretched out over lake. Knows when to stop a storm; knows when not to stop a storm. But no storm you will ever face can ever steal away from you Jesus' love or his promise that your sins forgiven, you're his dearly loved child, and he's going bring you to heaven. Jesus is Lord over wind and wave; he's more powerful than your heartaches and hard times. And he will always be with you, through the storms that rage around you, and storms that rage within you. "**He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep... The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore**" (Ps 121). So when it seems like God doesn't care, remember: Jesus is there, with you, in boat. Trust in his power, his wisdom, and his love.