

Christ's Attentive Care for His Disciples

Matthew 14:22-33; Mk.6:45-51; Jn.6:15-21

PBC Sun. AM 4/19/20 (covid-19, 2nd message)

I. *"Immediately He made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida, while He sent the multitude away."* Mk.6:45 (also Matt.14:22)

- A. The definition of the 2 Greek words:
 - 1. The Greek word translated "immediately" means "straight forwards; directly, immediately, instantly, forthwith".
 - 2. The Greek word translated "He made" means "to force, compel; constrain, urge".
- B. WHY did the Lord Jesus do this?
 - 1. The Apostle John gives some insight into this historical situation in Jn.6:15, where it is states, "*Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.*"
 - 2. This multitude, along with the disciples, were convinced that the Lord Jesus had the ability to overthrow the Roman government and return the nation of Israel to its independent state and to its glory days experienced under King David and even go far beyond those glory days. They were looking for a temporal king, a temporal deliverer. But this not what Jesus came to earth to accomplish in His 1st coming – Matt.1:21.
 - 3. That is the historical answer to our question:
 - 4. **BUT** I want to focus our attention this morning on another aspect of that same question.
- C. WHY did the Omniscient Christ Jesus *force, compel* His disciples to get into that boat KNOWING that a fierce storm was going to come upon them and threaten their very lives?!? This question is aimed at the Omniscience of Christ; namely, its validity and, more particularly, Christ Jesus' usage of that Omniscience.

- A. The disciples recognized the voice of their Good Shepherd and willingly received Him into the boat. (Jn.10:21)
- B. The word of God is the means through which the Holy Spirit ministers (speaks) to Christ's disciples. In the times of Mark 6, it was in and through God's written and spoken word. Today, it is in and through God's written word.
- C. The power is in the word of God! It is the believer's spiritual sword.
- D. That is why we (the disciples of Christ) need to read and meditate upon the word of God regularly (daily).

III. *"...immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him..."* Matt.14:31

- A. When the Apostle Peter took his eyes and focus off of the Lord Jesus, Peter began to sink into the sea and perish.
- B. BUT that is when the Lord Jesus lovingly and immediately stretched out His hand and caught Peter.
- C. When we (the disciples of Christ) fail in tasks to glorify God and live in manner that is pleasing and honoring to Him, we are told in I Jn.1:9, "*If we confess our sins, He (that is, God) is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" (I Jn.1:9) No one is able to pluck Christ's disciples out of Christ's hands!

IV. *"...immediately the boat was at the land where they were going."* Jn.6:21

- A. When the Lord Jesus enter the boat the wind ceased (Matt.14:32; Mk.6:51)
- B. What **amazing power and authority** is displayed in the calming of this sea without speaking one word of rebuke to it (as He had done the first time, Matt.8:26)
- C. This storm could not keep Christ's disciples from reaching their designated destination – to the shores of Bethsaida and toward Capernaum.
- D. Nor will the trials and tribulations of this earthly life keep Christ from completing His work of salvation in His disciples, nor keep the disciples of Christ of reaching their designated eternal destination of being forever with God in heaven. Phil.1:6; Jn.14:3

V. Concluding Comments and Applications

D. The Validity of Christ Jesus' Omniscience Established

1. The Biblical Statements – Col.1:15, 16; 2:9
2. The Biblical Manifestations of Christ's Omniscience
 - a. Elsewhere in Scriptures – Jn.1:47, 48; Matt.12:25; Mk.8:17; Matt.17:24-26; Mk.11:1-6; Lk.22:7-13
 - b. In our texts under consideration
 - Jn.6:15 *Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king*
 - Mk.6:48 *Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them.* (No question or doubt here.)

E. The Usage of Christ Jesus's Omniscience Questioned and Answered. It is the usage of Christ Jesus' Omniscience that is being questioned.

1. IF Lord Jesus DID KNOW what was going to happen to His disciples after they obediently got into the boat, THEN WHY did the Lord Jesus not do something to prevent this storm from greatly distressing His disciples? The answer is 2-fold...
2. **For Glory of God** – all in that boat that day came away from this historical event KNOWING that the Lord Jesus Christ is God – the Creator and Master of all things.
 - a. Note what is said in Matt.14:33, *Then those who were in the boat came and worshipped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God!"*
 - b. These men were brought to realize and to acknowledge, that there is only 1, true and living God. They were brought to realize and acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ is that 1 God, along with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.
 - All men know of this God through general revelation – Rom.1:18-20
 - Sometimes God works His works of providence to (mercifully) remind unregenerate people that, though they do not like to retain God in their minds, He is still sovereignly in control of all

things (without exception) and still supremely reigns over all men! This is what happened in Egypt.

3. **For the Good of His Redeemed People – Rom.8:28** - For the Comfort of His Redeemed People BY the manifestation of His amazing Love and Care for His redeemed people!
 - a. We see the beginning of this eternal and spiritual good, in Mk.6:48a. *Then He saw them straining at rowing, for the wind was against them.*
 - b. BUT Christ Jesus' concern and care for His disciples DID NOT STOP with Him just "seeing them", it goes on to what is recorded in Mk.6:48b "...Now about the 4th watch of the night (3-6 a.m.) He came to them, walking on the sea..."
 - c. From the viewpoint of the disciples of Christ, this storm happened to them for the glory of God and for their spiritual and eternal good.
4. Summary and Application of The Usage of Christ's Omniscience
 - a. Because of what His disciples learned about themselves – that in and of themselves, they are frail, insufficient and inadequate to do the simplest tasks that God requires of them; that without Christ, they can do nothing! But even though they are frail and insufficient for the tasks that Christ Jesus has called them to do, they CAN do all things through Christ who will strengthen them. (Jn.15:5b; Phil.4:13)
 - b. Because of what His disciples learned about their Savior – He sees His disciples in their trials and tribulations, He comes to His disciples in their time of need. In other words, you can count on Him to keep His word and to manifest His love to His blood-bought people!
 - c. BUT it does not stop here!!

II. "...*immediately He talked with them...*" to calm their fears and cheer their hearts, Mk.6:50