

The Stories That Remain

Pastor Craig Sweeney | November 12, 2023

Thread: Where is your faith?

Faith is: "...faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 ESV

- Where is your faith?

Text: Luke 8:22-39 NLT

"One day Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let's cross to the other side of the lake.' So they got into a boat and started out. As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap. But soon a fierce storm came down on the lake. The boat was filling with water, and they were in real danger."

Luke 8: 22 – 23 NLT

This story is both a real story and a metaphor.

- Crossing the lake is about the journeys in life we embark on.
- With Jesus we will get to the other side.

Jesus has spoken many things about life at His side to those following in His footsteps.

- To DO what He does...To THINK as He thinks...To VALUE what He values...To LOVE as He loves.

Our commitment to the journey will inevitably be challenged by real storms. Where will you place your faith?

- Run to Jesus.

"The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we're going to drown!'" **Luke 8:24 NLT**

When we experience the storms of life, what do we do?

- Run to Jesus.

"When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. Then he asked them, 'Where is your faith?' The disciples were terrified and amazed. 'Who is this man?' they asked each other. 'When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!'" **Luke 8:24 – 25 NLT**

When we gather as the Church and we experience God together, we find ourselves in AWE of Jesus.

"Calm"

"Then...He asked them, 'Where is your faith?'" - Interesting phrase

- The question of "who is in your boat?" is the most important question you will ever answer.

"So they arrived in the region of the Gerasenes, across the lake from Galilee. As Jesus was climbing out of the boat, a man who was possessed by demons came out to meet him. For a long time he had been homeless and naked, living in the tombs outside the town. As soon as he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down in front of him. Then he screamed, 'Why are you interfering with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?'...This spirit had often taken control of the man. Even when he was placed under guard and put in chains and shackles, he simply broke them and rushed out into the wilderness, completely under the demon's power...People rushed out to see what had happened. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, and they saw the man who had been freed from the demons. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully clothed and perfectly sane, and they were all afraid. Then those who had seen what happened told the others how the demon-possessed man had been healed. And all the people in the region of the Gerasenes begged Jesus to go away and leave them alone, for a great wave of fear swept over them. So Jesus returned to the boat and left, crossing back to the other side of the lake. The man who had been freed from the demons begged to go with him. But Jesus sent him home, saying, 'No, go back to your family, and tell them everything God has done for you.' So he went all through the town proclaiming the great things Jesus had done for him."

Luke 8:26 – 39 NLT

Where is your faith? What story are you telling?

Challenge:

- Where is your faith?
- What story are you telling?

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