

PRAYER: The Place of Invitation

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A Boat Story

And when it was evening, the boat was in the midst of the sea, and He was alone on the land.

And seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them.

But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out; for they all saw Him and were frightened.

But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid" ...They were willing therefore to receive him into the boat...

And He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were greatly astonished.

And those who were in the boat worshiped Him saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

...and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

(Composite Text: Mk 6: 47 - 51; John 6 : 21; Mt 14 : 32 - 33)

The Lesson

Jesus wants me to _____ Him into "my boat" -- my specific _____.

Other Scriptures

On the Road to Emmaus:

...25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

28 And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. 29 But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. 30 When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their

sight. 32 They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:13- 30

Letter to the Church at Laodicea:

14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: 15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, 18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. 19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. 20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Rev 3:14-22

****No matter how old you are in the Lord, Jesus wants _____ by YOU!**

What are your "boats"?

Invite the Lord to come into your "boat" --your specific life situation, and wait on Him for insights and instructions.

Encourage others to invite the Lord into their situation.

The Lord wants us to experience His presence in our life situations, our emotional upheavals, our wounds, disappointments, the lies we've believed, our joy & sorrows...everything! Then we can know that He is truly adequate in everything we may face in this life.

Questions for Meditation and Study

ARE there some things the Lord will NOT do unless asked?

James 4:2

Matthew 7:7-11

Deut 29:29

Is 55:8

The chief difference between orthodoxy and heresy is that orthodoxy is rooted in paradox and mystery, while heresy is usually rooted in clarity and precision.

St Irenaeus, 2nd century

WHO was responsible for the circumstances in each Scripture passage?

WHAT blinded the believers to the Lord's presence &/or identity in each passage?

WHAT is the purpose or reason for the Lord's desire to enter into each situation with His people?

Thoughts for Meditation & Application

WHO has ordained the circumstances of your life...past, present, future?

WHAT may be blinding you to His presence &/or identity in them?

DOES it feel like the Lord has "fallen asleep" in the midst of your "storm"? Look at the other boat story – Mk 4:35-41.

*Thou art the Lord who slept upon the pillow,
Thou art the Lord who soothed the furious sea,
What matters beating wind and tossing billow
If only we are in the boat with Thee?*

*Hold us quiet through the age-long minute
While Thou art silent and the wind is shrill :
Can the boat sink while Thou, dear Lord, are in it; Can the heart faint that waiteth on Thy will?
— Amy Carmichael*

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