

So the book is introduced by a real-life example of a storm that the the ride, the author of the book had with his family. There were camping, they were in this really flimsy pop-up camper, and the storm was just raging really crazily.

And so, that's how he opens up the book. But we know that in a storm like that things do get dark, it's very chaotic. It really hard to find any kind of peace in that. This also other storms in our lives that are just not being in a flimsy camper in the middle of nowhere and the middle of the dark and storms and winds.

And everything's, there's other things that we know that are storms in our lives. What are some examples of that?

All we have death of a loved one. And I know some of our families have been through that recently. Typical first story? Yes, a difficult birth. Mmm, there's cancer. There's divorce. There's wayward children. That's that. There's job loss. There's financial loss apostrophe of friends Apostasy of friends. Right, kind of goes along with way.

We're children a church. Split can be a storm sometimes and spiritual crisis. Yeah. And Sometimes, you know, we don't even see that that we could have people here in this church right now sitting with us right now who are in a storm. And I think, you know, our brother Oscar and his family and they're probably still going through that storm right now with the loss of his father.

And then perhaps our lives are calm. But we are worrying about that storm that might pop up, right? So when we think about the storms in our lives, What do we do to get through them? To have peace in the darkness. God's Word is a great place to start.

Psalms 119. Verse 105 tells us that your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path that definitely gives us a place to start. So, let's look into God's Word. We're going to go through that story in John 6 where Jesus is disciples are dealing with a storm.

They're not in a camper, but in a small boat. So John 6, we're going to read 16 to 21. This is the story of Jesus's disciple, the caught up in a real stormal to see a Galilee. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat and started across the sea to Capernaum.

It was now dark and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because of a strong wind was blowing when they had wrote about three or four miles. They saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat and they were frightened. But he said to them, it is, I do not be afraid.

Then there were glad to bring him into the boat. And immediately the

boat was at the land to, which they were going. So if we carefully study this, this passage here. It gives us some instructions for cultivating, peace during life. Storms. First thing we need to do is realize and recognize that the darkness, the storms will come those things.

Those dark times will be there. And then the second one is to believe that Jesus is on our side. It's oftentimes when we don't really think about that, that can definitely be a rough time when we're not thinking that Jesus is on our side. Number three is to listen to God's word be in God's Word.

Number five before, excuse me four is to reflect on the character of God. And number five is to look to the joy that comes in the morning. So number one, recognize that the darkness the storms will come. So let's let's think about that story. What is like before they get into the boat and go across what happened that day?

Seems I remember Well, sorry, big bed for important. Mm-hmm, Right. Jesus fed them the masses. A great deal of people had followed Jesus, to this wilderness area, Jesus had compassion on them, wanted to feed them and The people were fed, then they kind of turned in. They saw that Jesus was something special.

He was verse number one.

Then those men when they had seen sign that Jesus did said, this is truly the prophet who has to come and do a world. So they were looking for the profit who was supposed to come into the world, the Messiah And what did they do after that, you know, they had their bellies full and everything.

They were going to take him by force and make him their king, right? And Jesus, that was not in the plan that he had. So they wanted to take him by force, making the king. So Jesus, instead sent the the disciples across the sea as he dismissed the people.

And then he went up on the mountain to pray, right? And then once the disciples are in the boat and the ways offshore it gets dark, it gets stormy and job, John records. This scene in great detail with images that are reminiscent of the, the creation of details in Genesis.

So the its dark, the Caesar rough. There's a strong wind blowing and if you know where the sea Galilee is, it's about 600 feet will OC level. There's two large mountain ranges, that go this way. And when that wind gets funneled down through there, the sea of Galilee gets really, really rough.

So it was dark, the seas are coming over. The the sees are being rough, dude, the strong wind, But if you look at it, John doesn't say

anything about the disciples being afraid of this storm, right? They really don't become afraid until they actually see Jesus approaching them, but I'll get back to that point in a little bit and think about another boat ride that the disciples had with Jesus, right?

How about the one where Jesus was sleep on the pillow? Not really sure what the pillow is. I think, some people think it was like a ballast, a bag of ballast of sand or something, but Jesus was asleep. The disciples are in fear of leaving losing their lives, right?

These guys were fishermen, they were used to the sea and so Typically they wouldn't be afraid but you know and the one word Jesus was asleep, It must have been very bad so they were afraid of that one but this one that they weren't afraid.

And why is that? Well, what was Jesus doing when they left? Or what was Jesus about to do, when they left, Jesus had to miss the dismiss the people and gone up to the onto the mountain to pray and we know that Jesus was praying for them. We know that Jesus prays for us, and no matter how dark the storm gets, how no matter how thick the darkness is, we know that Jesus is there.

Interesting for us who has number two, do is you can dance, It is priced to die. And furthermore is also missing is even at the right hand of God who also makes intercession for us. Jesus is interceding for us. Jesus is for us, he is praying for us. Even today who has the number.

The next one Hebrew 7.

So far also using able to say to undergoes today that you're onto, see the error limited to make potential work, Right? Jesus is interceding. Jesus has always making intercession for us. How often is Jesus making intercession for us. Always right. He upholds us in the dark times of our lives.

And so the darkness will come and completely cover us, But Jesus is praying for us and interceding for us. So let's let's move on to number two. Believe Jesus is on our side. So why were the disciples only fearful after Jesus had approached the boat when he was seen walking on the water?

Because, you know, that doesn't say anything about the disciples being afraid before they saw Jesus. It was only after seeing Jesus approach them that fear fell on them. The approach of Jesus brought them, no peace. Maybe they didn't think Jesus was on their side. So let's think back to the feeding of the masses.

They had failed Jesus? Right? There are faith. Their weak faith. Had been exposed, Who has John 6:539, cooking up his eyes then and clean

the film that a large crowd was coming through. And Jesus said, Philip Where are we to buy bread? So that these people may need. Instead, this text, we're teaching yourself to do what he would do.

So let's answer him. Two answers are a work of bread. Does not be affected for each one of his disciples. Andrew Simon Peter's brother. Secondhand there is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they for so many? Right. So What does the responses by Philip and Andrew tell you about their belief in Jesus?

Well, it may imply that Jesus was willing and wanting to feed the people but he really couldn't do anything about it. Could Jesus do anything about feeding the people? Yes, Sometimes We doubt the goodness and character of God, don't we? And when we do that, It's kind of hard to have peace in those dorms Do we sometimes think that God is not on our sides.

Do we sometimes adopt the theology of Job's friends? Right.

Truly God is just right. This helps us for our sins, but he doesn't judge us for our sins and why is that? But because yeah Jesus has already born that judgment once and for all Romans 8 verse 1, High Falls River move Christ. Jesus told to be an apostle said apart from the gospel of God.

Maybe I gave you the wrong one. The verse I was looking for is there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh. But according to the Spirit So God does not send storms into our lives to drive us away from him, right?

God sends storms into our lives to draw us to him. Hebrews 12:5 through 11 says,

And you have forgotten and have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons My son do not regard lightly, the discipline of the Lord nor be wary when reproved by him for the lower disciplines. The one he loves and chastises every son whom he receives It is for discipline that you have to endure.

God is treating you as sons for what son is. There. Whom the father does not discipline If you are left without discipline in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children's and not sons besides this. We have early fathers who have disciplined us and we respected them, shall we not much more?

Be the subject to the Father of spirits and live for. They disciplined us for a short time as it seemed to best to them. But he disciplines us for our good that we may share in his holiness for the moment. All disciplines seems painful rather than pleasant. But later, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by

it.

So, the trials in our lives are not evident evidence that God is against us. They are evidence that the Almighty God is for us. He afflicts us, not to destroy us but to restore us. So let's move on to number three. Listen to the word. So we know that Jesus did not come to the disciples to harm them.

He came to comfort them and to bring them His Word. So what is the first thing that Jesus said to them? John 6 verse 20-21. He's got that but you said to me, it is hot. I do not be afraid then they willingly received him into the vocals and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

Good. Thank you. Actually, if you look at the original language, Jesus uses the same words that Moses heard at the burning bush, that wasn't consumed as he approaches the boat. Jesus says, I am do not be afraid Jesus. Identifies himself not simply as a prophet or a king. Are really good man.

But as the great I am And Jesus speaks a good word to his disciples not in spite of their weakness. But because of their weakness, he is the refuge and strength of his people. He is a very present help and times of trouble. I am do not be afraid.

Here's a work spoken into the darkness to bring light and gladness and joy and times of storms God's Word, whether we're hearing it or whether we read it serves as our firm foundation, just as the hymn professes. And I want to put that on the board. So we can sing that this afternoon Number four, reflect on God's the character of God.

So when Jesus said to his disciples, I am do not be afraid. The past says that they were glad to take them him on board. But again in the original language, Glad is more than just gladness. It's more like wished desired wanted. They desire to take Christ on board, and he was not there in judgment in wrath, but in mercy to comfort.

And to cheer If we look at Moses's response to God's self-revelation and Exodus 38 verses 8 and 9, it can be very instructive for us in this in this this aspect here. So who's got that? It's a 34 89. Did you mean 38 89? I'm hoping it's 34. 8 9 and Moses quickly bound his head toward the earth and worshiped.

And he said if now I have found favor in your sight O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us for it is a stiff. Necked people, and part in our iniquity, in our sin and take us for your inheritance. Thank you. So Moses worships God, right.

Because? Why? Because who He is and he believes for God's continual presence. Because the people us also our stiff necked and sinful Moses

once God to go with them because he is a, God of mercy and a God who pardons iniquity, because he is the friend of sinners. So when the darkness of life storms, surround us, when the deep waters threaten to wash, this off the boat, When everyone is running around like a chicken with his head's got off.

It would be who thus to calmly reflect on the character of God. And number five, looking to the joy that comes in the morning. So what happens right after the disciples take Jesus on board with gladness

Hmm, They reached the land. Yes. Immediately they are where there we're going. Jesus carried them. Safely miles away. And if we take notice of the creation themes, here we see John's point. Jesus brings his people safely through the storm to a new creation. Nearly all of John 6 is focused on Jesus as the bread of life, right?

Jesus feeds the the masses with the bread early in the chapter and then goes on to identify himself. As the true bread of life that they heavenly, Father sends from heaven and says that whoever is partaking of that, heavenly bread will be raised up on the last day. So with Moses, The people cross the Red Sea, they went through the waters of judgment and then they were fed the manner that came from heaven With Jesus, as the other way around the bread, and the wilderness came first and then the waters of judgment.

And why the difference? It's because of the New Covenant. Let me read to you what the author said here because I just I can't say it any better than the way he said. So I'm gonna just read you just part here. The point is this, the food with which Jesus feeds, you is the very food that carries you through the waters of judgment.

He feeds you with the true bread from heaven, He feeds you with himself, He feeds you with himself because it is only in him that you are taking safely through the waters, The storms and even through the judgment to the new heavens and the new earth. So we see, We see here that the same creation themes, when we look to Revelation who has revelation 15 1 through 4

That I saw in other sign in heaven and break the marvelous. Seven angels, having the seven last plagues for in them. The Rapid of God is complete And I saw something like to see a glass vehicle of fire, and those who had a victory over the beast, over his image, and over his mark, and over a number of their names, obtaining on the field last.

Having parts of God, they sing the song of Moses, the serving a dad, and the song of the lamp saying, rape marvelous all your works. Lord God Almighty Justin True or your ways O king of the Saints who shall not fear you, O, Lord and glorify your name for you alone.

Are holy, we're all nations. Shall come and worship before you or your

judgments as a manifested. Okay? So let's examine this. This piece of scripture here. The Saints and our standing firmly on a sea glass. A calmed water and they're seeing the songs of Moses and the song of the lamb, prior to God's wrath being poured out.

So what can we see from here? The Saints are secure, They're safe. They're singing a song, a triumph of victory and the wrath of God does not touch them. And John shows us through the use of this creation imagery that Jesus will bring us through all the storms of life.

Every single one. And even the last judgment to the peace of the new creation. Not only has Jesus given us His word about this. He is also given us His Holy Spirit to minister to us through the word for our comfort. And how is that? For some joy. Jesus and John 14 gives us that promise of comfort.

John 14, verse 16, starting there and I will pray the Father and he will give you another helper that he may abide with you forever. The spirit of truth in the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him but you know him for he dwells with you and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans. I will come to you jumping down to verse 25. These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the helper the Holy Spirit whom the father was sinned. In my name. He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you peace.

I leave with you. My peace. I give to you not as the world gives. Do I give to you? Let not your heart. Be troubled. Neither let it be afraid and the Heidelberg catechism reassures us of this same comforting spirit. And I believe this question and answer number eight but this is that, this is the answer In his human.

Stature Christ is not now on earth. But in his divinity, majesty, grace and spirit. He is never absent from us and in closing, I want to read to you again from the book.

There is peace here for believers, no matter how dark the night may seem to you. Darkness will give way to light, no matter how deep and contest to tempestuous. The waters, may be around you. They will be calmed, no matter how fears the storm, may rage, a bounce, you the storm is God's storm, Where do you turn when all around you is darkness when the storms of life encompass.

You, Where do you find peace in the hardest times of life turn to the Word of God? Look to the joy that he will bring in the morning. Find peace in the promise of the new heavens and the new earth where you will live in eternal peace of everlasting day.

I hope you all. We'll take this to heart when you do go through these these rough times. Because we do know that we will go through them, But our heavenly Father is using that for our benefit and he will get us through plus bar. Heads gracious. Lord, we Do not know what to say.

When we see our weak faith, as we go through times of trouble Lord, we pray that we would always know your presence that your spirit would continue to work in us and and be with us and wellness. We thank You, Lord, for your word and what comfort? It gives we, thank you, Lord for that comfort at all times.

We pray. Lord, that we would take these this word that you have given us and that it would end well. Us also interfere that in times of trouble that we would look to you look to your spirit and we look for the day that Christ returns ports, in his name, we pray.

Amen.