

**Title:** Facing / 'Faithing' the Storm  
**Pastor:** Sias le Roux  
**Date:** 28 December 2008  
**Time:** 9h00 & 18h00



### **Mark 4:30-41**

<sup>30</sup> Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? <sup>31</sup> "It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup> "but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade." <sup>33</sup> And with many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it. <sup>34</sup> But without a parable He did not speak to them. And when they were alone, He explained all things to His disciples. <sup>35</sup> On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" <sup>39</sup> Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" <sup>41</sup> And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

### **Faith**

The ability to trust that God is who He says He is in Scripture, and believing that He will do what He says He will do.

### **Fear**

#### **Joshua 1:9**

<sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

- **Fear of rejection**
  - Men-pleasers instead of God-pleasers. Popular?
  - Confrontation
  - Strangers around / groups
  
- **Fear of failure**
  - Shame?
  
- **Death**

#### **Isaiah 53:2-6**

<sup>2</sup> The servant grew up before God--a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. <sup>3</sup> He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. <sup>4</sup> But the fact is, it was our pains he carried-- our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. <sup>5</sup> But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him--our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed. <sup>6</sup> We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost. We've all done our own thing, gone our own way. And GOD has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong, on him, on him.

#### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

<sup>14</sup> For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> of whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named, <sup>16</sup> that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; <sup>17</sup> that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that

you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, <sup>21</sup> to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen.

## Facing the storm

### Mark 5:5-19

<sup>5</sup> And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. <sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. <sup>7</sup> And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." <sup>8</sup> For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!" <sup>9</sup> Then He asked him, "What *is* your name?" And he answered, saying, "My name *is* Legion; for we are many." <sup>10</sup> Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. <sup>11</sup> Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. <sup>12</sup> So all the demons begged Him, saying, "Send us to the swine, that we may enter them." <sup>13</sup> And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea. <sup>14</sup> So those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. <sup>15</sup> Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been* demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>16</sup> And those who saw it told them how it happened to him *who had been* demon-possessed, and about the swine. <sup>17</sup> Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region. <sup>18</sup> And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. <sup>19</sup> However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

## How to survive the storm

- Presence of God

### Exodus 3:15

<sup>15</sup> Then he said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here.

### James 4:8

<sup>8</sup> Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

### Philippians 4:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

- Prayer and asking (supplication)
- Thanksgiving & worship  
We do not have because we do not ask.

- Manifest Presence of God

### John 14:21

<sup>21</sup> He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

Manifest: disclose / appear / declare / exhibit

## The Kingdom on earth

- True Power

### Acts 10:38

<sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him

## The Gospel of Jesus Christ

### Romans 1:16

<sup>16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation for all who believes

## Other Gospels

### Galatians 1:3-10

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom *be* glory forever and ever. Amen. <sup>6</sup> I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, <sup>7</sup> which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. <sup>10</sup> For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ

## The centre of our Gospel

### I Corinthians 2:1-2

<sup>1</sup> And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. <sup>2</sup> For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

### I Corinthians 3:10-11

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

## The Command

### Mark 16:15-20

<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." <sup>19</sup> So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.

## Missing elements

1. **Repentance**  
Change of action, not remorse.  
Godly sorrow and hating of sin  
Heaven and hell
2. **Denying of self**

### Matthew 16:24-26

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

### 3. Blood of Jesus

#### I Peter 1:18-19

<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

### 4. True signs

- Accompanying signs - Mark 16
- Healing and deliverance included
- Acts 1:8 – working of the Holy Spirit