

The 4th Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, February 3, 2019

“Restoring the Masterpiece ~ Fear”

Mark 6:45-62

“For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10)

God specifically _____ each one of us—we're not cheap _____ or knock-offs, but rather masterpieces—God's _____ work.

Like all masterpieces, we too can become _____ do to exposure to the _____. We too can lose our luster and vibrancy, and become dull, washed out, and dirty. And as such, we are in constant need of _____ and repair.

What phobias do you have—what are you afraid of?

We can classify all our fears into two basic types:

Fear can _____ us and keep us from living our lives to the fullest; it can steal our _____ and rob our hope; it can keep us from the _____ life that Jesus died so we could have. When this happens—when fear controls our life, it can feel like we're _____.

Have you ever been so afraid, that you've had that sinking feeling?

“Save me, O God, for the flood waters are up to my neck. Deeper and deeper I sink into the mire; I can't find a foothold. I am in deep water, and the floods overwhelm me...” (Psalm 69:1)

“I waited patiently for the LORD to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God....” (Psalm 40:1-3)

The best thing we can do when we're afraid—when we're overwhelmed by the storms of life and feel like we're sinking—is to _____ patiently for God and trust that He will _____ and set us on _____ ground.

“Late that night, the disciples were in their boat in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land. He saw that they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves...” (Mark 6:45)

5 SIGNS THAT WE ARE SINKING

Sign #1. _____

“By now it was dark.” (John 16:17a)

Sign #2. _____

“Jesus had not yet joined them.” (John 6:17b)

Sign #3. _____

“...the boat was in the middle of the lake.” (Mark 6:47)

Sign #4. _____

“The wind was against them.” (Mark 6:48)

“The waters grew rough” (John 6:18)

rough =

Sign #5. _____

“...they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves.” (Mark 6:48)

Instead of asking what God wants us to do when we experience these 5 things—when we're afraid and feel like we're sinking—a more important question is: _____?

Because fear can have a devastating effect on our lives—it can _____ and destroy the masterpiece.

FINDING PEACE AND CALM IN THE STORM

#1. When the storms of life rage against us and we're afraid, we can have hope because Jesus is already _____ for us.

Sometimes the storms of life are _____ of our own bad decisions. When we don't do what God tells us to do; when we go against His _____, we can experience all kinds of trouble. Other times, like that night on the Sea of Galilee, the storm comes out of _____—even when we've done all the right things. So much of life is beyond our _____, and we can be easily blindsided by life.

When we're caught in a storm, we can spend all our time and energy trying to understand or we can remember that God is _____.

“After saying goodbye to them, he went up a mountain to pray.” (Mark 6:46)

Omniscient =

Omnipresent =

Omnipotent =

“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith will not fail. So when you recover, strengthen the other disciples.” (Luke 22:32)

Jesus knew about Peter's _____ and subsequent _____, before it even came—He already knew the outcome—and He already prayed. The same is true for us—Jesus knows our storms long before they hit and He knows our fears—and He's already prayed that in the face of that fear, we'd have the faith to _____.

“Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.” (Hebrews 7:25)

“Who condemns us? Not Jesus Christ, who died and then was raised back to life and is now at the right side of God interceding for us!” (Romans 8:34)

#2. When the storms of life rage against us and we're afraid, we can have hope because Jesus _____ and _____ our struggle.
“Jesus saw the disciples straining at the oars.” (Mark 6:48)

When we are struggling through a storm, our fear can _____ us to God's _____ and the strength and comfort He offers; and we can think He doesn't _____. However, nothing escapes God's _____.

“He sees everything I do and counts every step I take.” (Job 31:4)

Not only does Jesus know when we're in the midst of storm, He also _____ with us.

“Jesus is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but he didn't sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

“O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.” (Psalm 139:1-5)

#3. When the storms of life rage against us and we're afraid, we can have hope because Jesus _____ at out moment of _____.
“About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water.” (Mark 6:48)

Have you ever had a storm come into your life and blow you off _____? Maybe you're off course right now—tossed about by the consequences of your _____ or situations beyond your _____—and like the disciples, you're exhausted, _____, and afraid.

Jesus _____ to them—He meets them where they're _____. He _____ into their storm. He doesn't stand on the shore line and give _____ or shout _____.

We don't need _____ when we're afraid or in a storm, we need a _____. We need God to _____ and act.

Jesus often comes to us _____ on the very thing we're afraid of, because He's infinitely _____ than the wind and the waves—than any storm that can come into our lives. Remember: Whatever is over our heads, is under Jesus' _____. Nothing is _____ for Him!

“I will not abandon you or leave you as orphans in the storm. I will come to you.” (John 14:18)

#4. When the storms of life rage against us and we're afraid, we can have hope because Jesus shows us that He is more than _____.

“When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. ‘It's a ghost,’ they cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said, ‘Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid.’” (Mark 6:49-50)

3 THINGS JESUS OFFERS IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

- He gives them _____. “Take courage.”
- He gives them _____. “Don't be afraid.”
- He gives them a _____. “It is I.”

ego ema =

I AM is the _____ name—it's the name that God used for Himself when He called Moses to free the Israelites from slavery. Jesus is claiming to be far more than just a man, a prophet, or good moral teacher—He's claiming to be _____.

“Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased...” (Mark 6:51)

“We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen...For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and he holds it all together right up to this moment.” (Colossians 1:15-17)



Do you struggle with fear?

Might you need to be restored by the Master in this area of your life?