

“Don’t Miss God”

By Pastor James Hicks

God bless you. God has a word for you today. I want to encourage you from the word of the Lord. Have you ever noticed that God at times shows up in strange ways? And sometimes, when God shows up, we may not recognize him? Sometimes trouble is God in disguise.

As we look at these verses in this lesson, let us take courage and know that if God sends us, God is with us regardless of the challenge or difficulty.

Read: St. Matthew 14: 22-27

After the miracle of the two fish and five loaves of bread that fed five thousand people including women and children, Jesus needed to escape because the people intended on making Jesus King even though the time was not yet come because of their appreciation for him healing them and working other miracles.

Apparently, the people misunderstood his primary mission. Jesus then immediately compelled the disciples to get into the boat and go to the other side while he dispersed the crowd. Jesus then went up into the hillside alone to pray.

How you ever realized that people can push you too fast? But if they push you up they can also pull you down. But when God lifts us up he is the only one who can pull us down.

Now when it was evening, the boat was already gone and the disciples were alone in the boat and the waves became turbulent. Even when we are in our Purpose, trouble comes.

Sometimes when we are going through the worst times of our life God is in the midst of us. God could be working in our lives even during some of our worst and most devastating moments. Sometimes it is the pathway that he takes us that brings us into trouble. But if we can continue to believe in him, He will bring us out of the trouble with victory.

Just before dawn, the boat was being tossed and Jesus came toward them walking on the water. Here are a few important observations. This experience served as a faith builder for the disciples and it should do the same for us by teaching us some important lessons:

1. They were on the boat without Jesus, so they thought. Listen, at times we may not feel like God is with us, we may not see his mighty hand upon us, but we must trust that He is still there.
2. Trouble would arise after they were seemingly far from him. It doesn't matter where we are when trouble comes. We can be among friends, home alone, faced with sickness, financial dilemmas or wrestling with a personal struggle.

We must know that no matter how great our problem, the same Jesus that rescued the disciples is able and will come to us and see us through.

3. They almost missed Him because they did not recognize him. As Jesus came towards them they did not recognize him and saw him as their enemy. "It's a ghost" they said, as they cried out in fear. Have you ever mistaken Jesus to be your enemy? You pray for a relationship and God sends someone in your life that isn't "tall, dark, and handsome" but is willing to love you and help you grow in God. Or maybe you prayed for help and God sends someone to assist you but they do not look like Jesus, they do not act like Jesus, and they certainly don't attend your church. However, before you dismiss them, you need to pray first and if God leads you to, give them a chance.
4. God sends our deliverance in unordinary ways. Our blessings sometimes come wrapped in trouble, embarrassment, disappointment and grief. Remember, God takes the foolish or simple things of this world to confound the wise. A child can be fearful of the very one who protects them when their protector shows up in a different uniform. David said "I would have fainted" Psalm 27: 13.
5. Jesus wants us to come close to Him so that he can calm our fears. "It is I, don't be afraid but take courage and trust me" he says. The Apostle Paul said it another way. "That I may know him". Phil. 3: 10-11.

Listen friends, sometimes God may appear out of touch, too large, high and mighty to us especially when we recognize how frail, weak and insignificant we are. He may at times seem too busy, unapproachable, and unreachable when we pray. But let none of these things move you. Just keep on trusting, hoping and believing in him and he will come even if he has to go through the fire, or walk on the water to get to you. Sometimes it may seem like trouble will overtake us and dethrone us from Heaven's best, but rest assured God is with you.

So, in conclusion, let me caution you not to be so easy to give up on God, your faith and your purpose. When we are frightened and become discouraged, too often this says something about our spirituality. Like the songwriter says, "Don't give up on God cause he won't give up on you" He's able.

When we have a tendency to give up easily on our purpose, goal or dream simply because we encounter difficulties, this says something about us and our level of faith in God. The Apostle Paul calls this Christian journey a profession. What ever we profess we must be ready, willing and able to defend at all cost. Meaning, oftentimes the very thing we are called to do will bring us the most trouble or opposition.

We do not want to be like the disciples in the sense that they trusted God when they felt his presence but when they did not they panicked. Remember, if we faint during adversity our strength is small. Instead, we should hold onto God's promises when

things get tough. Instead of quitting, we should pray more and fight more. If a door is closed, keep trying it and seeking God for new ways to open it. Don't just give up.

Let me encourage you this morning to believe and trust God. No matter what our situation looks like, let us believe and see the salvation of the Lord. Remember, the more troublesome our situation looks the bigger our God looks when he delivers us. And the bigger he looks, the more glory and honor and praise goes to Him. Amen.

About the Author

Pastor James Hicks is the Senior Pastor of Center of Faith Church located in Apopka, Florida. This publication and website was entirely funded by the generous support of families and individuals just like you.

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