DEVELOPING A KINGDOM MINDSET PT.3

A Mindset of Peace

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Mark 4:35-41 NKJV

³⁵ On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ 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?"

³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"¹

¹ <u>The New King James Version</u>. (1982). (Mk 4:35–41). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Introduction

A. Review.

- The last couple of times we have been together, we have been studying the subject entitled: Developing a Kingdom Mindset.
- Our Foundational scripture can be seen in **Mark 1:13**, where Jesus begins his Galilean ministry by stating; *"Repent and believe in the Gospel, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."*
- Here we learned that it is by repentance "Changing our mind" that we can realize and access the Kingdom of Heaven, which according to Romans 14 is Righteousness, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Ghost.
- Last time we specifically spoke about Holiness, which denotes a righteous lifestyle, a lifestyle that is patterned after Godliness, which includes sanctification, righteousness, and obedience to God and His will.

B. Overview.

- Today I want to continue on this subject and specifically speak about having a Mindset of Peace.
- When we believe in God and the work Jesus has done for us, we then have Peace with God, but it is through having a relationship with God, and being born again of the spirit that we can now have the peace of God.
- When we have the peace of God, it not only is the spirit of God, but a mindset we develop set on peace that triumphs even in chaotic situations.

Q. What comes to mind when you think of the word Peace?

- The Merriam-Websters Dictionary defines peace as a "state of tranquility or quiet."
- Most of the time when many of us may think of Peace, we may think of it in terms of the absence of conflict.

- However, the word for peace in the bible comes from the word Salom, which denotes prosperity, well-being, health, and completeness.
- Moreover, this peace is a peace that surpasses all understanding.
 It is a peace that triumphs in adverse circumstances.
- Part of having a Kingdom Mindset, is having a Mindset of peace. It
 is a Mindset that is set by spending time with the Lord in Prayer
 and the Word, understands its mission, and exercise its faith in
 God by confronting the real issues that causes the winds and the
 waves in life.

Message:

• To better understand how we can have a Kingdom Mindset, and a mindset of Peace, I want to look at Mark 4:35-41, where we read about the story when Jesus rebuked the winds and the waves.

- In context, this passage takes place shortly after Jesus finished preaching one of his sermons in Galilee, and was traveling to another city that was on the other side of the lake.
- As We know, as they were on their journey to the other side, that is when the storm hit.
- This storm was not a whimpy storm, it was more like a tsunami, where the winds were strong and the wave were really high, so high that it could easily break the boat and cause them to sink.
- This storm was so bad that it caused the disciples to be in fear, and believe they were going to die.
- As a Matter of fact, biblical scholars suggest that the storm we see in Mark 4 resembled the powers of evil in the world
- Today we may not be on a boat, but we are in the midst of a storm in our world. Whether it be the pandemic, our racial climate, or the election year we are in. The storm(s) we may be going through has caused people to be in fear, causing us to be

more divided than united. Causing people to do what was right in their own sight.

• Moreover, as we read the story, all this was going on while Jesus was asleep in the boat, and Jesus was ASLEEP.

A. Jesus was asleep, while the disciples were "woke."

1. Jesus was asleep.

- To me, Jesus was able to be at peace and rest at this moment, because He had the spirit of God within him.
 Because He had the spirit of God within him, there is a confidence that God will take care of them. After all, it is interesting that the winds and the waves were going, water was filling the ship, but the ship did not sink, nor what it was broken.
- This shows me, that as believers we may be pressed on every side, but never crushed because we have the greater one inside of us (Scripture).
- 2. The disciples were "woke."

- Normally when we think about being "woke" we think about being aware. However, as believers there are times when we can be aware, but we need to learn how to trust. The disciples did not fully trust God, therefore the winds and the waves caused them to do everything HUMANLY possible to stay afloat, which caused them to be in fear.
- They were afraid that they were going to die.

B. The disciples accused Jesus for being asleep.

 Because of the fact the disciples found Jesus asleep, verse 38 of Mark 4 shows how the disciples accuse Jesus for not identifying with their plight.

Mark 4:36-38 NKJV

³⁶ 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. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ 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?"²

- Many Theologians and biblical scholars compare this to how the sailors treated Jonah when he was on the boat, fleeing from the place (Nineveh) he was supposed to go. They simply wanted to throw him off of the boat.
- Today we can attribute this to the cancel culture we live in.
 Whether it is on social issues, the pandemic, the election etc.,
 Because many of us have given into what is happening in the
 world and adopted its views, many of us believe that if you do not
 side with us, then you are a part of the problem. Many people say
 "if you are not outraged, then you are a part of the problem."
- Our culture says, if you do not side with us, then we want to throw you off of the boat. Although to some this may seem right, it is not a Godly way of thinking. It is very divisive. This is an

² <u>The New King James Version</u>. (1982). (Mk 4:35–38). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

attitude that says "I'm right and you are wrong," which only generates division and strife.

Q. How did Jesus set his mind on peace?

I. Jesus spent time with the Lord.

Mark 1:35 NKJV

³⁵ Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

A. Jesus separated himself.

- This was a point of consecration. A point of separation. It is by this kind of separation where distraction would be eliminated. Here Jesus specifically separates or Isolates himself so He could properly hear from God.
- For us, times of consecration or separation can serve us well. It allows us to not just hear from God, but it also allows us to rejuvenate, allowing our stress level to go down, and we can refresh ourselves.

B. Jesus spent time with the Lord in prayer.

- It was through spending time in prayer that Jesus was able to see what he was supposed to do and act.
 - John 5:19 NKJV: ¹⁹ Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.³
- It was through spending time in prayer, He was able to clarify what he was supposed to do, act, and react to things life may present to him.
- It is through prayer that we are able to exchange our anxieties, and in return receive the peace that surpasses understanding, in which guards and keeps our heart and mind FOCUSED on him.

³ <u>The New King James Version</u>. (1982). (Jn 5:19). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Prayer simply allows us to keep our focus. This is why Isaiah
 26:3 tells us, "You will keep in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on him."
- When we pray, we allow the Holy Spirit to guard our heart from any exterior force that tries to disrupt our peace, allowing us to think clearly and have a well controlled mind.
 (Philippians 4:7).
- It is when we do not pray and meditate on the word, that we tend to stray off. This is why God tells Joshua in Joshua 1:8 to *"meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.⁴"*

II. Jesus set his mind on the mission God sent him on.

Mark 1:36-37 NKJV

⁴ <u>The New King James Version</u>. (1982). (Jos 1:8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³⁶ And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. ³⁷ When
 they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."
 ³⁸ But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach
 there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."⁵

- Jesus' mission was to save those who were lost. It was to be the sacrifice for many. This meant that he was to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.
- When we are focused on our mission, it is easier for us to not have our focus broken. When we understand and our focused on our mission, we do not have time to be concerned about issues that are meant us to be drawn into fear, and divert us away from the mission God has us on.
- In regard to our text, Jesus was still on mission. He was moving from one town to the next. He was more focused on getting to the other side so He could carry on his mission.

⁵ <u>The New King James Version</u>. (1982). (Mk 1:36–38). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- In regards to the winds and waves in our text, the winds and waves were there to stop Jesus from carrying on the mission.
- The winds and waves can easily speak to the spiritual warfare that surrounds God's Kingdom Agenda.
- The Devil does not want the advancing of the Kingdom of God in the earth.
- The reason we encounter warfare when we are on Gods Kingdom agenda, is because of the breakthrough that is on the other side.
- In Jesus' case, the break through came through other miracles, people getting saved etc. For example: The man who was possessed with Demons was set in his right mind when he had his encounter with Jesus. (See Mark 5).

Conclusion.

III. Jesus confronted the winds and the waves.

• By speaking to the winds and the waves, Jesus executed his authority and faith.

- When Jesus spoke to the winds and the waves, he was speaking to the Demonic forces behind it .
- The winds and the waves were not the actual problem. The winds and the waves were the "effect" to the "cause."
- If we think about it, Jesus speaks to the winds and the waves in the same way he did with the man who was demon possessed in Mark 5. The effect this man had was that he was foaming at the mouth. The effect that he had destructive behavior. However the cause was the demons that was within him. Moreover, when Jesus confronted the Demons within him, they had to come out.
- It was the same here. Jesus confronted the winds and the waves, because Jesus understood his authority, the winds and the waves had to obey his command to "Be Still."
- As believers, we understand that Jesus gave us the same authority. Jesus would later tell us in Matthew 17:20, where he is seen casting out another demon, saying: "...if you have faith as a

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mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.⁶"

- There are times in life where not only do we have to go through the storm, we also must confront some storms.
 - Yes there are some storms you must go through. Listen life happens to everybody. There are situations and circumstances that just happens that are out of your control. But there are also storms you must confront. Storms in which Satan is behind, and we must rebuke the Devil, and tell the winds and the waves to be still.
 - In this case, the winds and the waves were the effect, it was not the cause. When we only deal with the effect, we are just putting a bandage over the wound, and not dealing with the wound.

⁶ <u>The New King James Version</u>. (1982). (Mt 17:20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- If you do not deal with the wound properly, the wound can become infected.
- Such things as racism, tribalism, and all of the ism's in the world are an effect, not the cause. The cause is rooted in Sin, which is a perversion of what God instituted out of love.
- When we only deal with the effect of something, we never solve the problem and have true peace, it will only grow back in a different form. But when we confront it by going to the root of the problem, it has to cease.

Finally, Part of having a Kingdom Mindset, is having a Mindset of peace. It is a Mindset that is set by spending time with the Lord in Prayer and the Word, understands its mission, and exercise its faith in God by confronting the real issues that causes the winds and the waves in life. When we have this mindset, although all hell may be breaking loose all around us, we can still have peace in our home, health, finances, relationships because we have the peace of God within us.