

## Sermon on 25 June 2017

### Theme: Faith over fear

Bible: Mark 4:35-41, Psalms 55:22-23

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Let us pray. Almighty God! Now we are coming into your presence. Allow us to have your wisdom and knowledge, so that we are able to understand the word of God and apply this into our lives. Please use me as your servant and mediator. I am asking that the Holy Spirit will guide us and protect us. Bless us. Thank you Lord. I pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

In 1997, I went to the USA. It was my second time to go to overseas. I was so excited to see my friend. He was a computer programmer and worked for Microsoft. On the plane while flying over the Pacific Ocean, I was thinking what I would be doing there. Flight attendants were serving the food with passengers. After I prayed, I was starting to eat. All of a sudden, there was a severe turbulence in the plane. Most of the passengers were afraid. We couldn't do anything. We couldn't eat any food. This continued. It took about an hour and a half. And then there was no turbulence at all. There was peace in us. I thanked God for rescuing us.

Living in this world, we have experience the things that we never expected such as sickness, disease, accidents or death of beloved people or important things, and so many things. What would you have done when you have had these kinds of happenings in your life? You might have solved out by yourself. Or, You might have asked your family members, church members, or your close friends.

As a believer of Christ, we are to have faith in God, because he is with us and he will help us how to live and work in this world. Hebrews 11: 6, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly see him."

Our first step is to acknowledge that God is with us and he cares for us at all times. Let us read *Mark 4:35*, "That evening, Jesus said to his disciples, *Let's cross to the east side (CEV).*" Well, we need to understand what our Lord Jesus had done. He spent too much time teaching about the word of God. He must have been so exhausted. Some of you might have experienced teaching or preaching in public. Personally, I need time to prepare. And I would do practice more than five times. While I was invited by churches in Malaysia in 2013, I spoke at four different churches and mission organizations every day. When I got back, I was very tired.

This reminds me how our Lord Jesus was so tired. At that time, there was a disaster. *Verse 37 says, "suddenly a strong wind struck the lake. Waves started splashing into the boat, and it was about to sink (CEV).*" Jesus was so tired. And the boat was about to sink. Disciples were too much afraid.

In this world, we might experience the strong winds in our life; worries, distress, sickness, illness, accident or death of loving people, jobs, money, etc. What would you do If you had those kinds of things? If you are having problems now, then it is

the right time. It is the right time for you to come to meet with Jesus. Because he is our Lord and Saviour.

Paul was known as a sincere believer of God. But his life was unhappy before he came to meet with Jesus at the first stage. He killed and persecuted too many believers of Christ. He was so distressed. Finally, Paul came to God and accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. *Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, I find no pleasure in them"*

At the age of 12, a friend of mine invited me to come to a church. At the age of 18, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior and was baptized. Since that time, my life has been a series of ups and downs. When I was a student at a Christian university in South Korea, I was turning away from God. One day, I came into a restroom. I accidentally read a biblical passage upon the wall. It was the same passage, *Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember your Creator...before the days of trouble come..."* It touched my heart. I confessed my sins against God. I came to the Lord.

A few weeks later, at a chapel, a professor of Religion talked about his college life. His life was so unhappy. He had wasted too much time on drinking alcoholic and dating many women. This made him so miserable. Later he came back to God and confessed his sins. He affirmed we are controlled by God. *Proverbs 16:9 says, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."* We can make our own plans, but our Lord determines our steps. Our Lord still controls our lives. Remember that our Lord is still with us.

What happened to the disciples? They were afraid when the storm came up. But they forgot that they were with Jesus. Jesus was with them. *Verse 38, "Jesus was in the back of the boat with his head on a pillow, and he was asleep."* The bible says that Jesus still was there. He was sleeping, because he worked very hard on speaking the word of God. He might have snored. When I was very tired, I would often snore. I was so sorry to my wife. A few days ago, my wife complained about me, because I snored and she couldn't sleep very well.

Look at Jesus. He must have been very tired. But the storm came. Many disciples were afraid. And they woke Jesus and said in *verse 38 "Teacher don't you care that we are about to drown (CEV)."* What would you if there were a fire at your house at night. But your husband or wife is still sleeping next to you. There was a heavy storm. But Jesus was still sleeping. You must have shouted, "Wake up (2x). We are going to die."

Our Lord Jesus said just two words. *Σιωπάω (siōpaō)* and *φιμόω (phimoō)*. *Siopao* means "Quiet or peace." It is God's command. The situation is so bad. It is so critical. We humans cannot do anything. Only God can do it. In this world, at many times, we cannot do it. It is impossible. But God can do it. Our Lord Jesus can do it. Thus, we need to ask him and pray, "Lord Jesus, I cannot do it. Please help. I believe you can do it." And *phimoo* means be still and stay there ( I will be with you). Originally, it means put a muzzle on a mouth of an animal such as dog or horse.



Look at the picture. The dog cannot do it until it is taken out. We cannot do it. Only God can do it. He says, “Σιωπάω(siōpaō) φιμόω(phimoō, Quiet, be still.”

Our Lord Jesus still intervenes our lives. Give all your worries and anxieties unto him. He still says to you, “peace, be still.”

Jesus answered in verse 40, “why were you afraid? Don’t you have faith?” Do you have still worries and anxieties. *Psalms 55:22 says, “Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you (NLT).”* Give unto our Lord Jesus all of your burdens; stresses, struggles, anxieties and even physical and spiritual illness. Jesus healed the Simon Peter’s mother in law. And there were many who suffered from all kinds of sickness and disease and even possessed by demons. Jesus healed all of them. Our Lord is still talking to you, “why are you afraid? Don’t you have faith.” Our Lord is with you, “why are you afraid. Don’t you have faith.”

God sent twelve spies to Canaan. They went and explored. And they came back. 10 people said that it was impossible to go, because the people in Canaan were so strong and the people of Israel couldn’t fight against them. However, there were two godly men. They were Joshua and Caleb. They said in *Numbers 13:30, “Let’s go and take the land, I know we can do it (CEV).”* Sadly, many people were afraid and terrified. They didn’t follow God. And, God was so angry with them, because he made a promise with his people. God would give the land to his people. Those who refused to follow the word of God died in the desert. But those who followed God were given freedom and allowed to go into the land.

We are still living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The science and technology have been developed. And they have affected our lives. But don’t forget, our Lord still controls. He is with us. Our Lord Jesus says in *John 16:33, “in this world, you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world.”* In this world, we might have troubles and hard times. But take heart. Don’t be afraid. Come to God. He will be with us. He will help us. And our Lord is still talking to us. “Quiet, Be still.” “Are you afraid, don’t you have faith?” Our God is great God. He is everlasting. He was and is and is to come to save us and to be with us at all times.

Let us pray. Almighty God. We thank you for leading our service and the message of God. As you said, we are still living in this world. It would be like storms. We don’t know what will be happening. There will be ups and downs. We will be having hard times. Help us remember you are still with us. And, help us to ask in any situation. We believe that you have been with us and will be with us forever. Thank you Lord. Bless and guide us to follow you. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.