

HIStory – Week 2

Day 8 – Jesus rebukes the Storm.

Read Mark 4:35-41

Some of these disciples were fishermen by trade before following Christ so they had seen their fair share of storms, yet during this time they panic and go and wake up the man who was a carpenter, which makes me think that this must have been some storm.

Problems occur in every area of life, and the Christian life can sometimes have more storms than calm seas. As followers of Christ, we need to be prepared; we should not surrender to the stress, but remain resilient and recover from setbacks. When the squall approaches, lean into the wind, put your faith in God, pray, trust, and keep moving forward. Jesus is not the storm placer; He is the storm eraser, so become a storm embracer.

1. How hard is it to trust that everything will be okay?

Day 9 – Jesus feeds 5000

Read John 6:1-14

This is one of the most famous miracles recorded in the four gospels. A loaf of bread from the Bible times was not as big as the modern day loaf, it is about the size of a hamburger bun and rather flat. So for that to feed over 5000 people is incredible.

We often feel like what we have may not be enough for God, for our family, for those we love. But if we trust God, give what little we have, He can multiply it allowing it to change lives.

1. What significance does the 'leftovers' have?
2. What "little" can you offer God that He can turn into something great?

Day 10 – Jesus walks on Water

Read Matthew 14:22-33

Peter was the only one in the boat to react in faith; his impulsive request led him to experience an unusual experience of the power of God. Peter only started to sink when he took his eyes off Jesus and started focusing and worrying about what was going on around him; the wind and the waves. We may not get to walk on water in our lifetime, but we do walk through some pretty tough situations and if we focus on the wind and the waves in those situations, we will sink. To maintain our faith in Jesus when the hard stuff comes at us may be difficult, but it will keep us afloat.

1. How do you think Peter was feeling throughout this whole situation?
2. Do you think that you would have reacted the same way?

Day 11 – Jesus heals Ten Men with Leprosy

Read John 17:11-17

Leprosy was once thought to be highly contagious, so the people who suffered from it were separated from everyone else. When the leprosy was in remission they had to present themselves to the priest so that they could be declared as clean according to Levitical law. Jesus sent these men *before* they were healed, they responded in faith and Jesus healed them on the way.

Out of the 10 men that were healed, only one returned to thank Him; a Samaritan, the race that was despised by the Jews. God's grace is for any one who wants it and to those who are willing to accept it.

1. Has God called you to do something and it feels like there is no evidence to back up the call?
2. Do you think that maybe He is waiting for you to take the first step in faith?

Day 12 - Religious Leaders Surround Jesus

Read John 10:22-41

The Jewish people had this idea of what Christ would do; he was "supposed" to drive out the Romans and vanquish the enemies of the Jewish nations. They were like Jonah and Nineveh. Jonah wanted God to wipe out Nineveh because he thought they did not deserve to be there. The Religious Leaders wanted Jesus to declare Himself as the Messiah, as the Son of God, so that they could put him to death under the law against blasphemy, which was punishable by stoning.

1. Have you felt that God called you to do something and you find yourself surrounded by people telling you that you are wrong?
2. How hard is it to stand your ground in this situation?

Day 13 – Jesus raised Lazarus from the Dead – Part 1

Read John 11:1-16

If Jesus had been with Lazarus during the final moments of Lazarus' sickness, he might have healed him rather than let him die. But Lazarus died so that Jesus could show the disciples and any witnesses His power over death.

God's timing, especially his delays, makes us think that He is ignoring us, or that He is not answering the way we want. But He will meet all our needs according to His will and purpose.

1. When have you felt that God is ignoring or won't answer you?
2. Do you think you may need more patience?

Day 14 – Jesus raised Lazarus from the Dead – Part 2

Read John 11:17-37

I never really properly understood the significance of this text, especially verse 35, “Jesus wept”. Why was He crying? Lazarus wasn’t going to stay dead; verse 23 says so.

I am not good at funerals; I am not entirely sure that anyone is, but I would not be the friend you bring to a funeral to provide support because the emotions of other people makes me so upset that the person I am supporting ends up supporting me.

It wasn’t until last year that I began to understand. Maybe Jesus empathized with our grief, or maybe he was overcome with sadness; either way, Jesus felt our sorrow, He felt our pain.

If there is anything I have learned from my experiences last year and from this story, is that whatever you are feeling in that moment, it is okay. Whether you feel numb, or anger, or just despair; it is okay. It is okay to have no answers, or explanation.

If the Son of God needs to let it out, if Jesus wept, then we do too.