



SERIES: APRIL – YES, YOU CAN! OVERCOMING YOUR STRUGGLES

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Scripture: Matt 14:22-27

TITLE: You Are Not Alone

When our boys were little, they took swimming lessons at a local college down the street from our house. We would get the kids ready and introduce them to their teacher. Then we would point up to the window and say, “I know this can be scary but just know we’ll be right up there. You can look up there, and we’ll be watching over you. Don’t be afraid.”

The first few times, our boys kept looking up and waving. We’d wave back though they couldn’t see us. But just knowing we were there watching was what they needed for sustaining peace. Jesus offers us the same peace today. How so? Listen to what Matthew records in Matthew 14:22-27.

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side while he dismissed the crowds. After dismissing the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. Well into the night, he was there alone. Meanwhile, the boat was already some distance from land, battered by the waves, because the wind was against them. Jesus came toward them walking on the sea very early in the morning. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost!” they said, and they cried out in fear.

Immediately Jesus spoke to them. “Have courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

I have no doubt this is a familiar story to you. But there is no doubt that God calls us to a life of following Him even into stormy waters. I don’t know what storm you are facing today. Maybe the storm of sickness and health concerns. Maybe it’s the storm of relational problems of infidelity or divorce. Maybe you’re in a storm of a financial crisis. Maybe your storm is of loneliness and abandonment.

We all face storms in this life. They are to be expected. But verse 23 tells us that Jesus made the disciples get into the boat knowing the storm was coming. Now, Jesus may have been away from them on the mountain, but know this: just because we can’t see Jesus, He can see us.

So many times we feel like God is far away. We feel afraid. We seek peace, but we feel afraid. Where is God? Where is the love of Christ in the midst of the storm? But don’t miss what Matthew wrote in verse 22. Jesus made the disciples get into the boat to go ahead of Him. In other words, Jesus promised to meet them.

Our storms remind us of the faithfulness of God. And though the storm came, Jesus watched them and came to them as He promised. He will do the same for you.

So here's my challenge for you today: Remember Jesus is there and you can be watching and waiting for His faithfulness.

The storm you are facing is not a surprise to God. Yes, it is to you. Yes, you don't like it. But God is there. He cares. He is watching over you. The same power that rose Jesus from the dead is the same power He will use to carry you through the storm. So today, remember Jesus' presence and wait for His faithfulness. It is guaranteed.

When we find peace in Christ, that is the sure way to win the day.