

Commanding Peace

After our class this past Sunday, I found myself thinking about Habakkuk 3 again. God's punishment terrified Habakkuk, but he was determined to find peace through the coming destruction. **"I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rottenness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me. Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us." Habakkuk 3:16.**

Incredible. Peace. He had an inward peace that wouldn't make sense to most people.

I immediately found myself in the boat with the disciples. We read about this in **Mark 4:35-41**, but let's try to put ourselves there as we read.

This reminded me of a few truths we can all relate to:

- **We need to experience storms.**
 - Whether it's physical or spiritual: Mark 5:34; Luke 7:50; James 3:13–18. Yes, many times we need these storms before we appreciate still waters. But do we actually learn? Do we attempt to navigate around them? Do we truly learn and hand our health concerns or past sins over to Jesus? These men needed to face, in their hearts, who Jesus really was and to what degree they would trust in Him. We need to appreciate the wisdom of facing storms head on and what we've learned from them.
- **We don't need to prefer them.**
 - Some people prefer worldly sorrow over godly sorrow. Isn't that strange? Consider 2 Corinthians 7:10-13. They had to endure an emotional storm before they experienced peace. Take note of the range of emotions: grief, earnestness, eagerness, indignation, fear, longing, comfort, and joy. Emotions have their time and place. They teach us. They serve as tools. Emotions are not destructive, but they must be appropriately exercised. But peace is where you want to land.
- **We must command peace.**
 - Yes, this is something we **choose** and God will grant. This is where passages like Philippians 4:4-9 & Colossians 3:12-15. What do you do to have peace? What do you focus on? What do you talk to God about? Are past disappointments robbing you of it? Past conflicts?