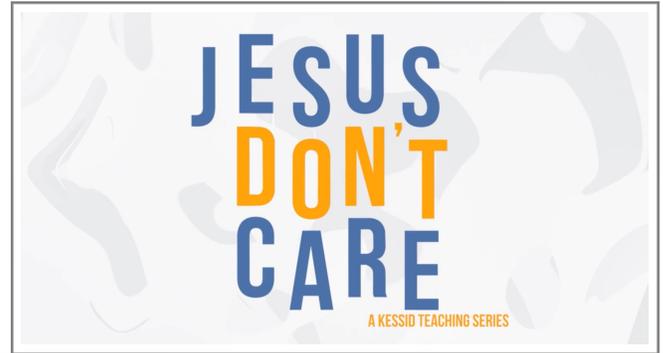


## “JESUS DON'T CARE ABOUT WINDS AND WATERS”

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Speaker: Danny Clinton



**“‘Jesus Don’t Care’ is a Series about removing the excuses that keep us from being known and knowing.”**

**A fancy way of saying community...**

- During His ministry, Jesus performed more than 40 miracles, including healing the sick, changing the natural elements of nature, and even raising people from the dead... “Jesus was legit!”

**One of the most well-known miracles in the Bible tells of when Jesus calmed the stormy Sea of Galilee...**

- ... This miracle appears in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke...
- The last few days started positively, but it quickly turned negative when the people started responding to Jesus...
- The Jewish religious leaders did not welcome the response of the people, and quickly claimed that Jesus had performed miracles with the power of Satan.
- They maligned His character because they were overwhelmed and afraid... But, Jesus wasn't dismayed and continued teaching.

**The Kingdom Parables:**

- The Parable of the Sower
- The Parable of a Lamp Hidden Under a Basket
- The Parable of the Seed Growing
- The Parable of the Mustard Seed
- The crowd and the disciples listened and learned about how God is building His Kingdom...

**By the time Jesus had finished teaching the parables about the kingdom, it was later in the evening.**

- He eventually gave orders to His disciples to get into a boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee...

*(Vs) Mark 4:35-36 – On that day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd, they took Him with them in the boat, just as He was. And other boats were with Him.*

- The disciples knew it was His will to go to the other side, to expand His ministry, and Jesus expected them to believe in that mission...
- **Setting the stage:** The Sea of Galilee is about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide.
- The distance across the upper portion of the lake was even less.
- The trip would normally have taken less than two hours to cross the water, and the sun would have been setting behind the men as they sailed across the lake...
- ... The sunset must have been beautiful as the sunlight mixed with the clouds in the sky.
- **Note:** Pause and enjoy these beautiful moments with the Lord...

### **Somewhere along the journey, Jesus falls asleep in the boat...**

- ... And it's here while God is sleeping that a storm overtakes them...
- Since many of the disciples were fishermen, when the storm started, they probably kept calm knowing what you do during a storm.
- It was only when things started feeling out of control, and they started to believe they might not survive this experience... Panic sets in!

*(Vs) Mark 4:37-38 – And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”*

### **Question: Who got voted to wake up Jesus?**

- It's at this point Jesus rebuked them...

*(Vs) Mark 4:39-40 – And He awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”*

### **So, what is happening here?**

- Clearly the boat was nearly swamped... Is Jesus telling them that they need to wait even longer—until the boat is full to the brim with water?

### **Question: Do they need to wait to wake Jesus until they're all fully underwater and flailing around in the sea?**

- The answer to those questions is: I don't think so... Rather, it seems more about the fact that when the disciples come to Jesus, they say...
- Another version reads... (Vs) Mark 4:38 – “Teacher, don't you care for us?”
- That is how they call for His help. That is how they wake Him...
- They didn't come to Jesus asking Him to calm the waves or get them to safety, to the other side, as He said He would...
- **Nope!** It's just “Hey, “Where are you? We are about to Die! Do you see these Waves and hear this Wind?”

**The disciples come to Jesus with this assumption that because they're facing a challenge, and a threatening one (drowning), that it means Jesus doesn't care about them.**

- Despite Jesus telling them before they left that they would reach the other side, by the time the storm hit, they forgot His words and are overwhelmed in fear.
- This fear leads them to assume that because they are facing a threat beyond their own power and control, that means that Jesus doesn't love them.
- When you really boil it down...

**“The question they’re asking is not whether Jesus CAN save them, it’s whether He CARES enough to consider it.”**

- And Jesus isn't having any of that! So, He rebukes them!
- ... He clearly says, "I don't care about the Strength of the Storm!"

**I have been here so many times. I admit that I often find myself in this place ... I hear how the Kingdom Works... I have an incredible Sunset Cruise with Christ...**

- ... And then off in the distance the dark clouds start forming... Next thing I know I'm screaming to God... "Don't You Even Care!"
- This is what the passage is about... It has little to do with the storm raging around them, and instead speaks directly to the one spinning within...
- The internal storm asking... "Does God really care about me and what it is I'm going through?"

*(Vs) Isaiah 42:2 – “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.”*

*(Vs) Psalm 34:17-18 – “When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”*

**That said... Even though Jesus asked the disciples where their faith was, He still worked a miracle despite it...**

- ... And it seems that this experience, of Him showing up even when they didn't deserve it, had a profound impact on them...
- **First in the boat that day...** (Vs) Matthew 8:27 – And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"
- **And a while later...** When the disciples find themselves in a similar situation... Another Storm. Go figure!
- (Vs) Matt 14:22-23 – Peter and the Storm... Notice how different the response...
- But again, He reminds Peter... that the reason he started to sink into the sea was due to his little faith...
- **Side Note:** Notice that they walked together in the storm the whole time???

*(Vs) Matthew 14:32 – “And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.”*

**Question: How many times have you called out to Jesus from inside the storm... only to try and let go as soon as he pulled you up.**

- And then again, he reminds them that He doesn't care about the Strength of the Storm. "Jesus don't care about the Wailing Winds and Water"
- A Bread Issue: (Vs) Matthew 16:8 – But Jesus, aware of this, said, "O you of little faith, why are you discussing among yourselves the fact that you have no bread?" – Bread... really?
- A Demon Issue: (Vs) Matthew 17:20 – He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."
- Eventually the apostles finally started understanding this truth, even asking Jesus for more faith near the end of His ministry...

(Vs) Luke 17:5 ESV – The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

**This got me thinking...**

- If the disciples needed more faith, that would mean we of course might need a bit more faith... **So how does a person obtain more faith?**

(Vs) Ephesians 2:8 (NASB) – "For by grace, you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God..."

- This is an important truth because it reveals that faith does not come because of a personal decision.

**Faith is the work of God moving in one's life.**

**This is how I think most of us imagine Faith is given and grown... and it's true!**

- But, after Christ is Crucified and Resurrected another way of developing faith is presented... Our faith can also increase as we watch spiritually, Godly, mature men and women live out lives of Waves and Wind with The Lord.
- We watch them weather their Storms. That is the message of (Vs) Hebrews 13:7 (NASB) – "Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith."
- These well-worn lives are the result of the Holy Spirit's work.
- Their scars and wounds are the examples of the work of faith within them. These are the individuals have lived by faith, and it is obvious.
- For those looking for folks like this... ask God to reveal them.
- For those folks who are mature in the Lord, now is the time to step out and make your storm-soaked selves known...