## My God, in whom I Trust

## **Happy Wednesday Everyone!**

"Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened." Mark 6:45-52 NIV

Storms. They happen, and when they do, we are fortunate to be able to run for physical cover! Recently, my husband was fishing in our john boat and a huge storm popped up out of nowhere! Storms on water (or without covering) seem much more intense than storms we observe from safety! (Thankfully, he found a bridge - picture attached for reference!)

Are you running to the right place when a spiritual storm happens? Be careful - spiritual storms often look like physical ones... "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds." 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 NIV

Examples of spiritual storms are things like worrying, being hurt by someone else, stress, illness, etc.

When you run for shelter, do you run to a person, do you hide within yourself, or do you run to God? "I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."" Psalms 91:2 NIV

Jesus reveals here that He observed the disciples were physically struggling: "He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them." Even so, He had every

intention to meet them on the other side of the lake, and to pass by them, because they didn't need Him and we do not see that they cried out for help. "He was about to pass by them, but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, because they all saw him and were terrified."

Where do you run for cover?

Do you call out in a storm?

Do you call out when you're afraid?

But after Jesus climbs in the boat to reassure them from their fears, the winds die down, and He points out they were afraid because "they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened."

What about the loaves?! Where did that come from? You don't bring bread to a storm... that's like bringing a butterfly to a knife fight, right?

Well, just before this set of verses, we read another set of verses about Jesus feeding 5,000 men (an estimated 15,000+ if you count women and children). Jesus fed this massive group with the equivalent of a Lunchable (a few barley loaves and 2 sardines) and STILL had 12 basketfuls of leftovers!

And then immediately, Jesus sends his disciples to the next city by boat while He dismisses the crowd.

It makes sense to me to assume that the disciples were in the boat with the leftovers. Maybe not ALL of the leftovers, but at least some of them.

They STILL had evidence of the miracle Jesus just performed, and yet were terrified less than 24 hours later when they were in a storm. The miracle they hadn't understood was that Jesus is

enough. Jesus is our miracle-working God who supplies all our needs. Jesus is our Provider, Protector, and Savior!

And so, we can testify this Word is true: in our storms, as we give thanks to God for all that He has already done in our lives, He will give us His peace that surpasses our ability to understand, because we hold onto the leftovers of His previous provisions.

"Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7 CEB

And to run to God for cover, we SHIFT our focus: "From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you."

Philippians 4:8-9 CEB

Do you run to God for cover?

Do you trust God in a storm?

Do you trust God when you're afraid?

I pray you do, and then you will be like the righteous who have no fear of bad report, because God is fighting for me. And if He's the Lord of your life, He is fighting for you as well. If He is not Lord of your life, He's fighting for you to know Him as your only Savior. To Him be all glory and all wonder and dominion and power. Amen!

## Worship:

"Open Up Our Eyes" by Elevation Worship <a href="https://youtu.be/qCO8XLs5TOY?si=ByIEK4VXOYv6zYvb">https://youtu.be/qCO8XLs5TOY?si=ByIEK4VXOYv6zYvb</a> [youtu.be]

"My Shelter" by Jordan Feliz  $\underline{\text{https://youtu.be/1m5fxw8D--M?si=LWAboG6N3UKQ6a3g}} \\ \underline{\text{[youtu.be]}}$ 

"Trust In God" by Elevation Worship with Chris Brown and Isaiah Templeton <a href="https://youtu.be/QS04WbSnxok?si=a0tRzLP1TL1ou8uv">https://youtu.be/QS04WbSnxok?si=a0tRzLP1TL1ou8uv</a> [youtu.be]

**Brittany Laing**