

You May Have to Get Out of the Boat

You know, there are a lot of folks out there that have been praying asking God to reveal Himself to them in a mighty way.

Their prayer is – I see the possibility out there through the scriptures and many sermons they have heard, of God doing wonderful things for folks in their time of need or just during the normal things of life and would love to experience His mighty hand at work in my life.

There is however something we fail to see in our own lives.

We do everything in our lives to “guarantee our success” or guide circumstances we face to limit risk. We look around our circumstances in order to hedge ourselves from any pain or exposure just to avoid things we can’t control.

Every now and then things happen that we didn’t plan, and those are usually great times for us to see God at work on our behalf.

Problem is we set about to control these things in order to reduce our risk or protect ourselves from certain outcomes.

I am reminded of a fellow I once had the privilege of bringing counsel concerning a marriage situation he was unable to change. His wife was filing for a divorce. He did not want this even though he himself was not happy in his marriage.

When He came to me I asked him to explain the problem and he started with “she is going to divorce me, and take everything we have. She has a good lawyer who has a reputation for being a real “shark.” She has been planning this thing behind my back for some time and I am just devastated.

Pastor Tom, what should I do?

Now beloved, the counsel I gave him makes no sense to the natural mind. The natural mind would tell you to do all you can to fight this thing. Find out what dirt you can dig up on her to strengthen your case and when the time comes she files, you counter sue with the evidence you have gathered.

Meanwhile, the God we serve decides to “get out of the way” while this guy fights for himself. After all, doesn’t God help those who help themselves?

I do not know where that statement gained so much traction, but I do know that it started with the snake.

God helps those who need help. God helps the helpless.

My counsel was – brother, do not fight her. Give her everything she is asking for and more if you possibly can.

How in the world can I do that Pastor, everything I have worked for so hard in my life will be gone. She will get the house, cars, bank account, savings etc. I will be left with nothing.

Let me stick this in at this point of the story - peace that passes all understanding is not a thing, it is a person and His name is Jesus Christ. We fail to value peace. We do not see it as important as it actually is.

People who continue to fight for themselves eventually lose not only their peace, but what goes along with it. In most cases it is our health, or wellbeing in some manner.

When Jesus said “if someone wants to sue you in court and they are asking for your shirt (that is all that you have) give them your coat as well – Matthew 5:40

Does that make any sense to the natural mind? Of course not.

We forget that we are “supernatural folks” however.

We fail to see that Jesus is waiting for a chance to show Himself strong in your behalf but you are so interested in protecting yourself that you are losing sleep as well as your health that you fail to see the light.

“time to get out of the boat”

What is significant in this phrase is that the boat is your security. The boat represents those things you think you can control. The boat represents a safe place a place you think is your best bet.

Truth is, you will never see your ability to “walk on water” or rise above your situation until you get out of the boat and trust that you will not drown.

Peter found himself in that situation. He was doing great “walking on the water heading toward Jesus who had his hand out to greet him” until he looked down at the water (looking again at his terrible situation) and then he began to sink.

Thank Jesus that He was there to grab Peter’s hand and save him from drowning, but the truth remains that Pete would never have experienced that saving had he not left the confines of the safe boat.

So too, this brother would never have been able to see God move in his behalf until he took what seemed to be “stupid” advice. To the natural mind, it is stupid advice. To the spiritual mind – it made sense.

The end of this matter has a great ending. Truth is, the wife did file for divorce, did take all that they had together and he was forced to start again.

He did so, changing professions and has become a successful salesperson in an unrelated field. Oh and guess what? God gave him another helpmate that is not only successful in her own right, but loves him and together they have a lovely daughter who also loves the Lord.

Beloved, over the years I have encountered many such situations. And most if not all have a happy ending.

Who knows, maybe you will see your situation listed as I brag on our Savior.