

6/21/2009

NIV Psalm 46:1 For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. According to alamothe. A song.
God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah
4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day.

6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

7 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

8 Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire.

10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

11 The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

Mark 4:35-41

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "**Teacher, don't you care if we drown?**" 39 **He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.** 40 **He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"** 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

INTRO - In 2002 I was at home eating breakfast and I got a call at 7:45 a.m. from Pastor Carrick at the Presbyterian Church next door. "Jonathan, "he said, "we were sitting at our breakfast table looking out toward your parking lot, and usually we can't see the shed on the other side of your classroom. But, we saw the shed lift up above the roof of the classroom, it spun around, and dropped in the road. I think you'd better come over." The next day the pipes at St. John which had frozen in that storm burst, and many of you helped vacuum up 2 inches of water from the basement. You know how the wind picks up in Palmer, as it comes down the Matanuska River valley. I've seen it rip off roofs, pick up buildings, throw trucks across the highway. You have too.

I. The Sea of Galilee is in a valley between two small ridges of mountains, sort of like the Matanuska River. The Sea of Galilee is famous for storms coming up quickly, but you've seen the Palmer Winds. Imagine the fear the disciples felt as they got on the Sea in a small boat, and the wind started to blow, the Greek says like a hurricane. The waves beat against the boat to the point of filling it up so that it was starting to sink. No wonder they were afraid. No wonder they came to Jesus saying, "**Teacher, don't you care if we drown?**"

A. But, did you see what Jesus did?

1. Maybe you noticed what verse 39 said.

2. Verse **39** says, "**He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet!**

Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

3. Jesus displayed the fact that he is the Lord Himself, the Creator and God of the Universe, and that He has power over all things, and that He was with his disciples in love and care and protection.
- B. But, Jesus also did something else, something that might have passed by your noticing.
1. Did you hear what Jesus said to the disciples?
 2. In verse 40 he tells the disciples, **"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"**
 3. Jesus' instructions to the disciples would be "Don't be afraid. In the middle of the storm, be calm. Have peace."
- C. Look at today's Psalm, Psalm 46.
1. This Psalm talks about God helping us in trouble, even in war.
 2. **Verses 1-3 say, God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.** Sounds like the Sea of Galilee.
 3. Then The Lord instructs his people in the middle of life's storms to be calm, to have peace. He says in verse 10, **10 "Be still, and know that I am God;**
 4. Even when we walk through the storms of life, through the valley of the shadow of death God calls us in faith to be calm, to have peace, to be still, because He is God. He can calm the storms, or if the storms take us He gives eternal life. God calls for and God gives peace.

II. Life is full of storms.

A. In the last 1980's hurricane Hugo headed toward Jacksonville. I was on my way to a meeting in Orlando, but turned around to be with my family. However, the hurricane turned north and hit Charleston, one of the biggest hurricanes in a long time. Richard and Ann Wilson, members of Our Redeemer had a grown daughter and a son in law in Charleston. We're told they got in the bathtub, pulled a mattress over their heads, and stayed there as the roof leaked and rained on them and the house swayed back and forth for hours. God says in life's storms, **10 "Be still, and know that I am God;** And, God our Father does love and care for us. The Wilson's children made it.

B. Today there are demonstrations in Iran. No matter what side you sit on there is turmoil, and the violence and destruction is increasing. Property is at risk. Even worse, life is at risk. God loves all, and calls all to believe that he loves and saves them in Jesus Christ. The message of God to His people in the midst even of violence is **10 "Be still, and know that I am God;** And, God our Father does love and care for us.

C. For months and years we have prayed for Kristin Kopperud to get a heart. But she waited from August 12 2005 to April 4 2009. During that time she got weaker, she had infections that threatened her life, her heart stopped in the hospital and she had to be revived. In the middle of life's storms God says, **10 "Be still, and know that I am God;** And, God our Father does love and care for us. You know Kristin is doing well with her new heart.

D. In 1979 my wife and I had been out to a movie, but we had come home, it was 3:00 a.m. and we were fast asleep. We lived in the parsonage of an inner city church next door to the

church. We had ordered an alarm system but the system had not been installed. In the middle of the night I heard something on the stairs. I turned on the light, and heard something running down the stairs. I found the cat there, and the front window pried open with the bar still there. When the police arrived I was walking around in my gym shorts holding my weapon, a vacuum cleaner pipe. I was not calm and did not sleep the rest of the night. I was worried. In the middle of life's storms God says, **10 "Be still, and know that I am God;** And, God our Father does love and care for us.

E. About 2 ½ years ago I visited Lillian Stamm in the hospital. She was having serious trouble breathing. We feared it might be near the end. But, despite her shortness of breath she took time to tell my son to be sure to continue to trust in the Lord and serve Him, because that was the most important thing in life. Lillian was facing death, but she had assurance. The next night I visited Lillian around 7:00 at her home, not in the hospital. Before midnight the Lord called her home. In the middle of life's storms God says, **10 "Be still, and know that I am God;** And Lillian was at peace, She knew that God who calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee is with us through the storms of this life. She knew that the Son of God, who calmed the storm, also died on the cross for our sins and rose again winning us forgiveness and eternal life. There is no problem greater than the love of God

CONCLUSION - Today is Father's Day. Congratulations, Dads. If there is something scary, it is the responsibility of caring for, loving, protecting, raising children in the Lord so that they know God's blessings in this life and forever. This world is getting more and more godless, and more and more wicked. Even Christians are struggling with the temptations of this world. We fathers know we are not perfect, and we struggle and sin. But we have the responsibility of raising our children in God's love. In the middle of life's storms God says, **"Be still, and know that I am God;** And, God our Father does love and care for us, especially through His love for us in Jesus Christ. We can go forward boldly, and have peace, Because God who calmed the storms loves and cares for us, now and eternally.