

Creation is broken because of sin, Rom. 8:19-22, longing for the day of redemption and to be wholly without sin as described in Revelation 21, and Isaiah 35:1-2. Jesus is King over disease, King over men, and this week, King over creation.

What does following Christ include?

1. **It Includes Testing Opportunities:** V23, Jesus got in the boat with the disciples. James 1:2-5 speaks of a testing/trial that test the genuineness of our faith in Jesus and to strengthen us.
2. **It Includes Uncertain Outcomes:** V24, A tempest arose but Jesus was sleeping. Scripture provides several examples of God's power over nature: Jonah 1:10-16, Noah in Gen. 6-7, the earth swallowing Korah in Num. 16:30, and the sun standing still in Josh. 10:12-13.
 - a. Mt. Hermon, at 9200 ft elevation, could create localized weather of fierce winds from snow cooled tops as air rushes down the slopes towards warmer air.
 - b. The disciples had uncertainty in the storm because: 1) Land was hard to see as it was already getting dark (Mk. 4:35). 2) V24, it was a great storm. The waves were covering the boat making hard to keep a bearing. 3) It was not a large boat, there were 12 or 13 people in it. There were smaller boats as well with them, Mk. 4:36.
 - i. This story is also a reminder that following Christ isn't always a life of leisure.
3. **It Includes Crisis Crossroads:** V25, "Lord save us! We are perishing." The disciples made three **faulty** assumptions in this testing:
 - a. That Jesus wasn't concerned about them, they doubted His love, Matt. 10:29-31.
 - b. That Jesus is not aware of what is happening, they doubted His omniscience, Ps. 139.
 - c. That Jesus is not fully in control, they doubted His omnipotence. If I am out of control, God remains in control.
4. **It Includes Loyalty Requirements:** V26, "why are you so cowardly?" is used in Jesus' reply to the disciples. Was that response too strong a rebuke? The word for cowardly here doesn't speak to their physical or mental acuity, it speaks to them responding as unbelievers would respond. A good translation of the response of Jesus would be, "Why are you cowardly like an unbeliever without faith in Me?" Jesus has demonstrated several times to them that He is God. My destiny is connected to Christ, He is King over me.
 - a. Heb. 13:5-6 & Ps. 118:6, what can man do to me? How is the fear of man manifested?
 - i. Fear of Wholehearted Submission, Idolatry of Control: 1 Pet. 3:1,4,6, the wife submitting to her husband. Col. 3:19, Eph. 5:25, the husband fearful of caring for and loving His wife like Christ loves the church. Col. 3:22, the slave fearful of obeying their master as unto the Lord. Heb. 13:7, the sheep fearful of submitting to their elders as God commanded.
 - ii. Fear of Gospel Sacrifice, Idolatry of Comfort: Rev. 2:10, Jesus telling the church to suffer for Him. 1 Pet. 3:14, believers suffer for the sake of righteousness. 1 Cor. 16:10, Paul telling the Corinthian church to care for Timothy as he deals with unruly sheep and shepherds. Gal. 2:11, Paul confronting Peter concerning eating with Gentiles and Jews and showing deference to one group over another.
>Believers don't pander to unbelievers, instead making them uncomfortable in their sin.

iii. Fear of Family Collapse, Idolatry of Family: Luke 14:26, Matt. 19:29, leaving family to follow Christ is the Christian life.

Do I permit habitual sin in our family to keep peace? 3 Weapons to fight for souls:

- 1) Prayer that is extraordinary, Lev. 6:13, speaks of a fire offered to the Lord that never goes out. Our prayer for our unsaved loved ones is similar. Paul asked for prayer for an open door, Col. 4:3. Paul asked for prayer that the Gospel would speed ahead and be glorified (in salvation of unbelievers), 2 Thess. 3:1.
 - 2) Protection that is an example, that we protect our family from sin and bad practices. Unbelievers are welcomed to hear the Gospel but not to live in sin. Men are to lead their family in the ways of peace and holiness.
 - 3) Persistence that is extensive, Heb. 10:26, at some point the Gospel won't be available to the unbeliever, but while we have time, we should continue to proclaim the Gospel until they reject us. We are fools for Christ, 1 Cor. 4:10. Christ persisted to call people to come to Him even on the last day of the feast, John 7:37.
- 5) **It Includes an Objective Perspective**: objective is as if looking at yourself from outside yourself. V26b, it became calm. The fierce tempest became quiet at Christ's command. All the tests we have in life are under His control.

Further Discussion and Application

As we examine our lives and response to testing and circumstances that arise, what is the proper perspective of what has come my way? What do we tell others who are going through a trial that seems too big to handle? How do we encourage the sick? How do we pray for the sick or ailing? What are practical, personal ways to encourage other believers as they go through trials?

Reaching our unsaved loved ones is a difficult task. How can the weapons mentioned be used to bring us comfort and hope that we have done all we can do to reach them? God is the one who chooses those for salvation. How are we to be obedient to share the Gospel and trust in the Lord to bring about salvation?

Looking at the fear of men and the idolatry that we should be careful not to be captured by, how can control be an idol of our heart? What are Scriptural responses to needing control? How can contentment be an antidote to comfort? How can we be content with the boundaries God has set for us in life, family, church, and living a life of holiness? Can we always please God by pursuing godliness and holiness? Can we ever please the world by pursuing godliness and holiness? Where should we set the affections of our heart? How can that be our spoken testimony to the lost and unbelieving?