

Influence Ministries

WATER WALKERS

LESSON 4

TITLE: FACING OUR CHALLENGES AND CONQUERING OUR FEATS.

Peter was enjoying the most execrating walk of his life when something caught his attention.

He saw the wind, and suddenly he was distracted, and fear took over, and he begins to sink.

It's no different with us. Storms come into our lives, and it changes our situation, and we confront unexpected obstacles along the way.

And at that moment, just like Peter, we each face a choice to be defeated by our fear of the wind or to trust God and keep walking.

Storms can paralyze us, disrupt our faith in God, destroy our joy, harm our relationships, and damage our confidence.

It's also no secret that God has something to say about fear. The Bible records 366 times that he commands us not to be afraid.

We've been talking about what it means to get out of the boat and walk on water.

It would be a wonderful life and a great world if you did get out of the boat; and everything went smooth.

It would be good that every time you trusted God, but everything went perfect and smooth. But a lot of times, that doesn't happen.

So, what are you doing when you've gotten out of the boat, you go on this big adventure, and you've trusted God?

At times you realize at that point your biggest obstacles are before you.

That's exactly what happened to Peter. Peter gets out of the boat; he trusts Jesus, and he begins to walk on water.

Then the scripture says something very interesting; Peter noticed the wind. He realized there's a storm going on all around him, and he got scared.

This is what happens to everybody that trusts God. They think OK, God, I trust you, I'm going to step out by faith, and then precisely what happened to Peter happens to them.

They realize it's not all smooth, and there's a storm going on in their life and their world.

There have been a few primary characteristics that have been identified in resilient people.

One of them is that these are people who seek to take control when something difficult happens to them; they try to take action instead of just seeing themselves as victims.

Another one is, these are people who have a real deep commitment to their values.

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And no matter how high the pain level gets in their life; they will not betray their values.

And a third track of what makes people resilient is they find meaning in their suffering.

Something inside of them says this is not happening for no reason at all.

There's a classic example of this of somebody in the Bible, and his name was Joseph.

Talk about Joseph's life here. Talk about how his brothers hated him and sold him.

He was put in prison and forgotten.

He then becomes the prime minister of Egypt.

Storms and setbacks as God is using his situation.

So, we see, in the end, God always wins.

But while we are stepping out of the boat and adversity hits, we become afraid.

The number one barrier that people experience that keeps them from acting in obedience to God is they're afraid.

Another thing that happens to people when life doesn't turn out as they planned is it becomes more vulnerable to temptation.

Because I feel disappointed that things didn't work out the way they wanted them to, they say to themselves, why not just grab whatever pleasure I can.

One of the tests of a resilient person is that they say to themselves, I have a deep commitment to my values that I will not betray them.

Many Christians are given to despair because they feel at that moment, their life has no meaning and no purpose.

So, we conclude that we are suffering for nothing.

I saw this on social media last year and saved it, thinking I would use it someday. That day has come to this lesson.

"Sadly, over the years, I've known a lot of people who want to claim to be Christians but no longer walk with God. I've noticed a commonality; each of them grew bitter, and they felt that God hadn't awarded them enough for their godliness and faithfulness."