

Daily Devotionals

June 16, 2021

Overall theme for the week: Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped; but Jesus is here now, and when we call him, he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear. Even though we have fears in life and storm rage around us, we give thanks for the faith we can have in one to guide us through the storms of life and bring us renewed peace and joy.

Scripture Reading: Job 38:1-11

At the end of the book of Job, after Job and his companions have argued about the cause of the great suffering Job endures, God finally speaks. These verses begin that speech, which is a grand vision of creation, describing God's ordering of the cosmos and inviting Job to marvel at its beauty. God reminds Job and his friends that God is in control and although bad things may happen in life, God is still there to guide us and bring about new life.

Day 1: Reflect on Job 38:1-7

- What questions do you have in regards to the suffering you see or experience in your life?
- How does God answer these kinds of questions for Job and his friends?

Day 2: Reflect on Job 38:8-11

- When have you looked around at creation and marveled at the handi-work of God?
- How can being awed by creation give us a sense of faithfulness and confidence in God?

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Paul and his fellow workers experience great hardships and even rejection while carrying out their missionary work. Nevertheless, Paul continuously proclaims that God has not rejected us but is graciously working for our salvation. It is through these hardships that Paul proves his love for the people and the genuineness of his care for them. It is through hardships that we can come closer to God and one another and grow in faithfulness to God.

Day 3: Reflect on 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

- How might we take the grace of God in vain?
- How can hardships make us question our faith or question God's goodness?

Day 4: Reflect on 2 Corinthians 6:3-11

- What do you make of all the hardships Paul has endured? How have they affected his faith in God and service to the Church?
- How can we open our hearts wide to God, especially in tough times?

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41

Jesus' calming of the storm on the sea reveals his power over evil, since the sea represents evil and chaos. The boat on the sea is a symbol of the church and invites us to trust God amid life's turbulence. Staying united and faithful in the boat helps us to wait patiently on Jesus, knowing he comes to bring us strength and help.

Day 5: Reflect on Mark 4:35-37

- Have you ever been in a storm on the water? How scary was it?
- How quickly can storms arise in our lives?

Day 6: Reflect on Mark 4:38-41

- How do you tend to react in times of trouble? Panic? Fear? Calm?
- How can Jesus bring us strength in the midst of troubles?

Day 7: **Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32**

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,
³gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

²³Some went down to the sea in ships, plying their trade in deep waters.

²⁴They beheld the works of the LORD, God's wonderful works in the deep.

²⁵Then God spoke, and a stormy wind arose, which tossed high the waves of the sea.

²⁶They mounted up to the heavens and descended to the depths;
their souls melted away in their peril.

²⁷They staggered and reeled like drunkards, and all their skill was of no avail.

²⁸Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD, and you delivered them from their distress.

²⁹You stilled the storm to a whisper and silenced the waves of the sea.

³⁰Then were they glad when it grew calm, when you guided them to the harbor they desired.

³¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

³²Let them exalt you in the assembly of the people; in the council of the elders, let them sing hallelujah!

Reflect upon the power of God to bring calm in the midst of storms. What does it mean to know God comes to us in troubles? How can this help our reactions and response to difficulties?

We give thanks for the assurance of help in the midst of the storms of life. When troubles come, we need not panic, but turn to God and others for strength and help. God is always near to us to guide us and help us in our lives and grow in faith.