

CORONA VIRUS FEARS TURNED OVER TO JESUS

By Pastor Doug

How are you doing during this time of “hunkering” down in your home? By now some of you are losing your mind, for others you love the chill time, and I am sure everyone is feeling a whole new level of tension and fear. Which leads me to this encounter that Jesus had with his disciples during a great windstorm out on the lake:

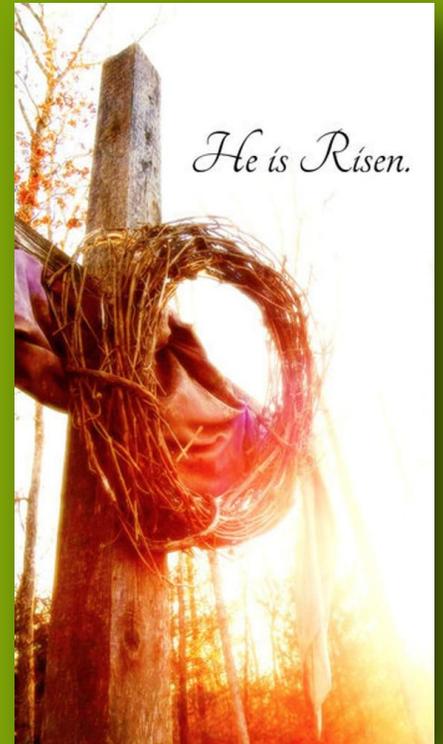
On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” Mark 4:35-41

Did the disciples experience genuine fear because of the circumstances? Notice the text describes a great windstorm, and the waves were beating the boat which was close to being swamped. These were experienced fishermen who knew the sea, but they were fearful of what might come next. This was not some irrational fear. Now notice the contrast with Jesus in the back of the boat sound asleep. Eventually he wakes up and sees the fear in His disciples and asks them, “why are you afraid?” Then before there is a response, He commands the waves to be still. Instantly the wind dies down and the seas become calm. Jesus the God of creation can calm the sea with a word.

I don't know about you, but I need to hear again the stories of Jesus during these challenging times. His leadership with His disciples and the way He built faith into their lives is what I need from Jesus today. Fear can be a symptom of our lack of faith. It is human nature to imagine a worst-case scenario when it comes to the corona virus. We are living in a time when the storm is stirring in the distant horizon. We see the devastation that the virus has already caused around the world. So now we wait . . . anticipating all of what may come. Fear can paralyze us, or we can imagine Jesus in the back of the boat. It's best to think of the future with God being a very present help in our time of need rather than a future alone. I like what this author says concerning these times:

“It is all-too-easy and all-too-human to let fear grow bigger than God. Like the disciples, we follow Jesus during everyday life, but what happens when a storm appears out of nowhere and threatens to swamp us? How do we view Jesus? As a man who doesn't understand the danger of the situation. Or as a God who reigns over all the earth? Our perspective changes everything.”

Friends hang in there as you cast all your anxiety on Him. Don't beat yourself up when waves of unbelief overwhelm you. Take time to refocus as you look to Jesus who is still in the business of calming seas. There is hope today. As we say at Easter and need to say everyday – Jesus is Alive!



Our Church campus is currently closed. We are closed out of love for our church family and the Medina community. In God's timing we will open our doors once again.

Until the doors are open, please join us online every Sunday at the MCC Facebook page or YouTube channel.

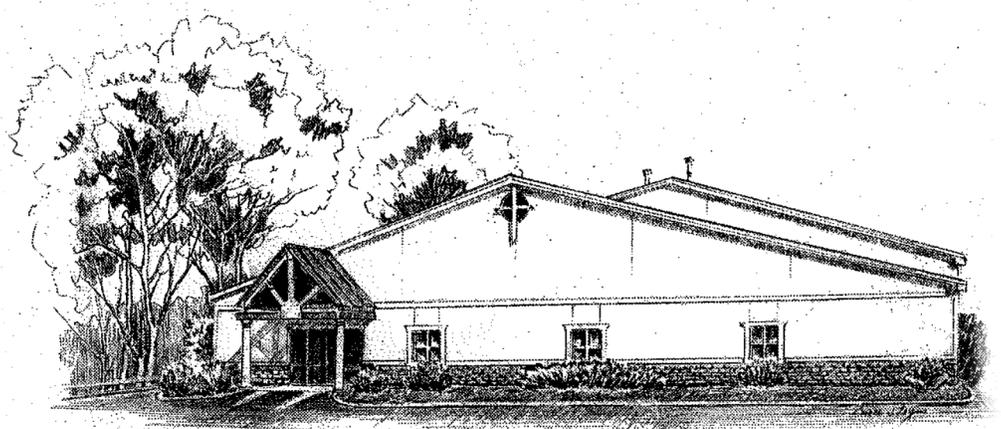
If you would like to receive our e-news please email Pastor Doug at dougdauidson@zoominternet.net

FINANCIAL UPDATE:



We appreciate all of the offerings that came to the church office this past week. Bills are all paid up and we are beginning April with a sound financial base.

THANKS for praying and following through with faithful giving while we are in this temporary closing. We will keep you posted about when we can safely meet again.



Medina Community Church

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