

**"BE NOT AFRAID"****Introduction**

1. A great miracle just done: 5,000 fed
2. The night following: a very difficult experience
3. So true to life: joy + sorrow alternate

**1. CHRIST SOMETIMES PLACES US IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS**

- 1) This is one way in which God's people are different from the world
- 2) The worldly are much left to themselves:
  - (i) See Psalm 73:4-6 – Compare v.14
  - (ii) Also Psalm 55:19
  - (iii) "God gave them up" (Romans 1)
  - (iv) Sodom: "Pride, fulness of bread..."  
**DOCTRINE**: The wicked are not disciplined by God
- 3) But the Lord's people are:
  - (i) Moab: "not emptied from vessel to vessel"
  - (ii) Psalm 73:14: "every morning"
  - (iii) "Whom the Lord loveth..."  
**DOCTRINE**: God in love afflicts the righteous
- 4) This principle applied here:
  - (i) the "toiling" as the sowed
  - (ii) the wind – not till the fourth watch
  - (iii) the terror they felt at the sight of Christ  
**APPLICATION**: Do we not know fear, toil, alarms?  
It is for our sanctification + good.

**2. CHRIST WILL NOT LEAVE US IN OUR DIFFICULTIES**

- 1) The wicked are "at peace" – till they are cut off: Psalm 73:17-20.  
Sudden + fatal.

- 2) But the Lord's people never abandoned:
  - (i) "The righteous cry..."
  - (ii) "They looked to him..."
  - (iii) "Although he fall...not cast down utterly"
  - (iv) Proverbs 24:16: "...falls seven times..."
  - (v) "The angel of the Lord encamps..."

- 3) So in this situation here:

- (i) wind / waves / night / "ghost"
- (ii) their terror proved: "cried out"

**OBSERVE**: Some times terror + panic can grip us

- 4) But they were not abandoned to it: See v.50: "It is I: be not afraid".  
**APPLICATION**: Christ is in every one of life's situations –  
all things work together for good..."

**3. WHY DOES GOD PLACE US IN SUCH POSITIONS?**

- 1) Partly, to show us our own heart:

- (i) v.52: "heart was hardened"
- (ii) v.52: "considered not the miracle..."

**DOCTRINE**: God's word + works should breed in us a full faith in every situation

- 2) Partly, to show us his love to us in all our weakness + infirmity:

- (i) The words of Christ: "It is I..."
- (ii) He "entered the ship": How good!
- (iii) The wind ceased!
- (iv) It was all amazing!

**DOCTRINE**: It was to strengthen their faith and to show them His love.

**CONCLUSION**

1. O that we might trust Him always.
2. And never panic.

**PSALMS****95: 1 – 6****89: 5 – 9****80: 17 – 19**