

Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

He is Waiting in the Midst of the Storm

by Max Lucado

Peter knows he is in trouble. The winds roar down onto the Sea of Galilee like a hawk on a rat. Lightning zigzags across the black sky. The clouds vibrate with thunder. The rain taps, then pops, then slaps against the deck of the boat until everyone aboard is soaked and shaking. Ten-foot waves pick them up and slam them down again with bone-jarring force. These drenched men don't look like a team of apostles who are only a decade away from changing the world. And you can be sure of one thing. The one with the widest eyes is the one with the biggest biceps—Peter. He's seen these storms before. He's seen the wreckage and bloated bodies float to shore. He knows what the fury of wind and wave can do. And he knows that times like this are not times to make a name for yourself; they're times to get some help.

That is why, when he sees Jesus walking on the water toward the boat, he is the first to say, "Lord, if it's you ... tell me to come to you on the water." (Matthew 14:28)

He is aware of two facts: He's going down, and Jesus is staying up. And it doesn't take him too long to decide where he would rather be. Perhaps a better interpretation of his request would be, "Jeeeeeeesus. If that is you, then get me out of here!" "Come on" is the invitation. And Peter doesn't have to be told twice. It's not every day that you walk on water through waves that are taller than you are. But when faced with the alternative of sure death or possible life, Peter knows which one he wants.

The first few steps go well. But a few strides out onto the water, and he forgets to look to the One who got him there in the first place, and down he plunges.

Peter's response may lack class—it probably wouldn't get him on the cover of *Gentleman's Quarterly* or even *Sports Illustrated*—but it gets him out of some deep water: "Help me!" And since Peter would rather swallow pride than water, a hand comes through the rain and pulls him up. The message is clear. If Jesus is one of many options, he is no option. If you can carry your burdens alone, you don't need a burden bearer. If your situation brings you no grief, you will receive no comfort. And if you can take him or leave him, you might as well leave him, because he won't be taken half-heartedly.

But when you mourn, when you get to the point of sorrow for your sins, when you admit that you have no other option but to cast all your cares on him, and when there is truly no other name that you can call, then cast all your cares on him, for he is waiting in the midst of the storm.

From *The Applause of Heaven* © (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999)

Max Lucado

Responsive Reading: Psalm 29:3-5a, 7-9

1-10 The voice of the LORD is over the waters.

11-20 *The God of glory thunders!*

21-31 The LORD [speaks] over the mighty waters.

1-10 The voice of the LORD is powerful.

11-20 *The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.*

21-31 The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

1-10 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

11-20 *The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*

21-31 The voice of the LORD strips the forest bare.

ALL: In his temple, all the people say, "Glory!"

Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-8a

The Lord says, "*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift-up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.*"

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: "*I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD, that is my name.*"

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "*I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?*"

But Jesus answered him, "*Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.*" Then he consented.

And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. A voice from heaven said, "*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.*"

Upcoming Events

Church council & Membership...

At the Annual Meeting in February 2020 (First Sunday) we will be looking for four (four seats are becoming available) new council members. IF you have been a member for one year as of this winter, are 18 years old, and are interested in serving as a council member, please talk to either Pr. Rob or Kevin Almendinger (council president), or one of the other council members (listed on the north wall of the community room, near the calendar in the corner).



We will also be needing a new church treasurer. If you are interested in assuming this role, please see Pr. Rob or Diane Youngquist.



TODAY we will have a representative of the Isanti County Sheriff's Office give a presentation on church security. The sheriff has been very responsive to our request we should fill the church in appreciation!



The Gideons International

The Gideons will be here to present their ministry during the service on Jan 26th. Salem has supported their mission with both prayers and money for years; please consider being a part of the support this year.



The Women's Bible Study meeting at 7:00 on Wed, Jan 15th and every-other Wednesday after that until Lent starts (1/29 and 2/12) (Ash Wednesday is February 29th).

Upcoming Events (Cont'd)



Meets every third Saturday starting January 18th at 8:30am!



We can use a few more Sunday School teachers (to teach either regularly OR sporadically). If interested, please talk to Pastor Rob!

GRIN-ABLE(S)...



One-liners..... ☺

- Velcro—what a rip-off!
- I recently decided to sell my vacuum cleaner as all it was doing was gathering dust.
- Don't you hate it when someone answers their own questions? I do.
- I hate Russian dolls, they're so full of themselves.
- 250 lbs here on Earth is 94.5 lbs on Mercury. No, I'm not fat. I'm just not on the right planet.
- The best thing about good old days is that we were neither good nor old.
- I have clean conscience. I haven't used it once until now.
- If we shouldn't eat at night, why do they put a light in the fridge?
- If I got 50 cents for every failed math exam, I'd have \$ 6.30 now.
- Moses had the first tablet that could connect to the cloud.
- A lot of people cry when they cut onions. The trick is not to form an emotional bond.
- The four most beautiful words in our common language: I told you so.

Calendar...

- ✓ **Next Council Meeting – January 14th @ 6:30pm**
- ✓ **Women's Bible Study – January 15th @ 7:00pm**
- ✓ **Men's Group – January 18th @ 8:30am**
- ✓ **Next Communion – January 19th**
- ✓ **Gideons visit during service – January 26th**
- ✓ **Annual Meeting – February 2nd following service**

