

THE DISCIPLINES OF LIFE SERIES

DEVELOPING A LIFESTYLE THAT'S USABLE TO GOD

TAPE NUMBER WNX-520 SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

THE DISCIPLINE OF **DESPAIR**

*A PRACTICAL SERIES ON CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES
AND HOW WE SHOULD BE LIVING IN THE WORLD AROUND US*

Week 15 of a 31-Week Series

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Christianity 101, Faith, Wisdom, Discipleship

Introduction to the Text;

Matthew 14:30

The Theme and Textual Summation of the Passage

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Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **:19 Go therefore** and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **:20 teaching them to observe all things** that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the world."

Matthew 14:30

But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "**Lord, save me!**"

Matthew 14:25-33

Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. :26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. :27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." :28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." :29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. :30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" :31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" :32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. :33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

Note the intensity of the moment;

It generated the shortest recorded prayer in the Bible...

"Lord, save me!"

Webster's 1828 – Despair:

hopelessness, destitution of hope, to have no expectation. the perception or reality that all hope is lost. To abandon all hope.

Despair - *eixapore÷omai exaporeomai*, *exaporeh-a-hee*; to be utterly at a loss, to be desponded. Believing that one is lost.

2 Corinthians 4:8

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed;
we are perplexed, but not in **despair**;

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1.) **Despair drives us closer to Jesus**

Storms are Great to Watch as Long as we're
Safe

What Compelled Peter to Leave the Safety of the Boat in a Storm?

To him it had become obvious that being with Jesus was safer than being in the boat with the others.

There are stormy seasons that come to our Christian journey
They're Unavoidable, They're Difficult, and They're Necessary

Verse 29 teaches us that Jesus knows exactly what He's doing when He invites Peter out onto the water.

Why would Jesus do this?

What would be the point of it? // **How** does this translate into real life?

He's The Lord of The Weather,
And There Are Times When No One's Help Will Do.

Psalm 77:1-2

I cried out to God with my voice - - To God with my voice; And He gave ear to me. :2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; My hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; My soul refused to be comforted.

What Clouds are Surrounding You ?

I think most of us are like the eleven here.
"Preferring the safety of the ship over the uncertainty of the sea"

As awesome as it was for Peter to walk on the water.

There's no real lesson to be learned there. **It was only in the sinking** that his faith would be built up.

Psalm 61:1-4

Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. :2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is **overwhelmed**; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. :3 **For You have been a shelter for me**, A strong tower from the enemy. :4 **I will abide** in Your tabernacle forever; **I will trust** in the shelter of Your wings.

Overwhelmed {ataph, aw-taf';

to be shrouded or to be left to languish. To grow fail, faint, feeble.

To be overwhelmed is to be brought to the place of “emptiness”
(**Having nothing left**)

In a Totally Different Event, Jesus was in the boat with them

Mark 4:36-40

Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. :37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. :38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” :39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “**Peace, be still!**” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. :40 But He said to them, “**Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?**”

1.) **Despair drives** us closer to Jesus

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2.) **Despair opens** us up to His ways

Only **those who are sinking** in their storms can feel His mighty hand when they cry out..... :30 “**Lord, save me!**” :31 And **immediately** Jesus **stretched** out *His* hand and **caught** him, and **said** to him, “O you of little faith,

Why did you doubt?"

Only "The Despairing" appreciate words like "Immediately"
and
He "stretched out" his hand...

And **immediately** Jesus **stretched** out His hand and...
Said neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more. / I am
willing be thou healed. / you are forgiven. / I will save
you...

Peter was the only one to hear those words.

These are not words of condemnation, but encouragement.
(pist... awesome peter - you'll never have to doubt Me again
- you won)

Only Peter could say -

there's **light** in the darkness / there's **hope** in the danger
/
there's a **peace** in the storms / I took His **hand** while I was
sinking...

Psalm 130:1-6

Out of the depths (*imagine the emotional and spiritual pressure*) I cry to you, O LORD;
:2 O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. :3 If
you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? :4 But with you
there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. :5 I wait for the LORD, my soul
waits, and in his word I put my hope. :6 My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Psalm 27:5

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of
His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

Exodus 33:21

And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock.

And What about The Hours and Days Leading Up to Our Rescue?
It **never** feels like it's going end. = "When" is He going to stop this?

It **never** feels like He's **on time** to us. = "Where" is He ?
It **always** feels **worse than** what it really is. = "Why" is He allowing this ?

Delta Airlines Pre-Flight Information

"In the event of a water landing, your lifejacket will deploy automatically and upon entering the water and the strobe light will illuminate."

"In the event of a difficulty in your life, your faith will deploy automatically and upon entering the water, the Light of the World will appear."

You can't be a brother or a sister without having a brother or sister;
And you can't experience deliverance unless you're in despair.

Hebrews 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, :18 of whom it was said, "*In Isaac your seed shall be called*," :19 concluding that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, :7 that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

1.) Despair **drives us closer to Jesus**

2.) Despair **opens us up to His ways**

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3.) Despair settles us in for life

**It's all about deciding to be with
Jesus**

in any circumstance. - It's safer to be with Him than with anyone else.

We tend not to venture out. We find ourselves glued to the seat because of fears, because of the unknown, plus, it doesn't make any sense at all to waste a perfectly good opportunity to stay safe in the boat.

>>>>> In the end – they're all going to be saved. <<<<<<

They can all tell about what had happened, **they had all** seen it unfold, **they had all** witnessed a miracle right in front of their eyes...

But Only Peter

knows what it's like to walk on water.
knows what it's like to feel His grip.
can say - "I'm not afraid of the water"

Never Again Would Peter Look at:

Storms the same / or the rough sea / or the wind / or a
boat.

**Hey everybody, I want you to stop and think
now;**

In times past, what was your great struggle that you thought at the time was impossible - you were convinced that you were going to sink?

Didn't you learn more about the Lord in that storm than you ever knew before?

So Don't Be Surprised Christian about the dangers that come to us in life and in ministry for our Lord.

1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; :13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

James 1:2-3

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, :3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. :4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Psalm 40:1-3

I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. :2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. 3 He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God;

**Come Forward For a Time of,
Dedication & Re-Dedication**

End of Study
