

A Boat Load of Happiness! - Sun Morning, July 10, 2016

If God wants to give us an abundant life (John 10:10), then why are so many Christians dissatisfied or unhappy with their lives?

Today I want to give you three things that you can do to have contentment or happiness in your life! You will need to recognize that these three things are not one time fixes to a happy life, but instead are a lifetime focus to keep. Let's read the scripture text first. Then we will look at these three very important points for us to be content and happy in life.

(Mark 4: 35 – 41)

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

36 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?"

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

So what three points do we learn from this text?

1. Jesus was with them in their boat.

(Mark 4:38)

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?"

(Hebrews 13:5)

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

(John 10: 27 – 29)

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

2. God is always in control.

(Mark 4: 41)

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

(I Chronicles 29:12)

Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; In Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.

(I Peter 3:22)

who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

3. God accomplishes His purpose.

(Mark 4:35)

On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

(Mark 5:1)

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes.

So, what have we learned?

- ✝ God's presence is with us.
- ✝ God has control over circumstances.
- ✝ God's purpose will be accomplished.

Remembering these truths along with applying two important steps will ensure that we as Christians will have lasting contentment and a boat load of happiness. Worry, fear, dissatisfaction and unhappiness will not fill our lives. Instead we will have an abundant life in Christ.

Jesus makes these two steps very clear:

- 1 Do not fear life's circumstances.
- 2 Have courageous faith in God.

(Mark 4:40)

But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

It has been said, "Faith is believing what God says. Fear is believing what the devil says."

So contentment and happiness for the Christian is knowing that God is always with us, always in control, and accomplishing His purposes.

Therefore, live life daily without fear and have courageous faith in God!