

Does Jesus Care?

And **MY GOD**
will **ALL YOUR**
supply **NEEDS ACCORDING**
to **HIS RICHES** *in*
GLORY *in* **CHRIST**
JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

By

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Does Jesus Care?

35And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

36And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?
Mark 4_35-38

The Gospel according to Mark was written with its emphasis on what Jesus did more so than what he had to say. It is considered by some theologians as the book of action. The term straightway (which depicts the immediate responsiveness of Jesus) appears more than 40

times in this Gospel alone. It is most interesting to note the audience for which this Gospel was written, for it was intended for the Gentiles in general and the Romans in particular. I highlight this fact because neither the Gentiles nor the Romans had a historical relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Nor did they have an appreciation for the Jewish heritage or the lineage of the house of David from which Jesus was a direct descendant. They were, in effect, nonbelievers. Why is that important you may ask? Well, if we were to take a random poll of those who profess to be followers of Christ, if Jesus is concerned about the welfare of man, it would come as no surprise to anyone to hear a unanimous yes. But if you were to ask a nonbeliever the same question, what do you think the answer would be? I think it is important to point out that in our text for today this question was asked by those who were

not only believers, but were in fact the inner circle of those who were with Jesus on a daily basis. Any sea faring mariner knows storms on the sea can come up out of nowhere at any given time. And I am sure that this storm was not the first storm that these men had encountered. True enough some storms are rougher than others and no doubt such was the case on this occasion. But what they had going for them in the midst of this storm was Jesus! Now in their defense, they did what many of us do from time to time, they let their humanity get in the way of their faith. So the moment trouble arose they panicked. So now if Jesus' closest companions felt the need to ask him if He cares, what about those who don't really know Him?

This question **Does Jesus Care** is the question of the ages. While times have most certainly changed, with each generation the question is

born a new. **Does Jesus Care?** When the Christians were being fed to the lions by the Romans, somebody was asking **Does Jesus Care.** When Joan of Arc was burning at the stake, somebody was asking **Does Jesus Care?** While Nero fiddled as Roman was burning, somebody was asking **Does Jesus Care?** When our ancestors were stolen from our native land, beaten, whipped, and lynched, somebody was asking **Does Jesus Care?** And even today when the George Floyds of the world cry “I can’t breathe” somebody is asking **Does Jesus Care?**

This question, **Does Jesus Care**, is a serious indictment on the sincerity of Jesus’ concern for our welfare and is only rivaled by the question of His authenticity posed by John the Baptist. Remember in Luke 7:19 when John sent two of his disciples to Jesus to ask of Him “*Art thou He that should come? or look we for another?*” The

response that Jesus sent back to John sets the stage for the answer to our question **Does Jesus Care?** Listen now as Jesus responds to John's disciples: Luke 7:22 *"Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached."* What Jesus is saying is: if you cannot believe me for who I say I am, then believe me for my works sake. In other words let the works that I have done speak for me.

I know what you are thinking; what works can we look to for the answer to our question? Well when the pandemic hit the world a year ago there was no cure to be found. Today three vaccines are being distributed to help protect us from the deadly disease. This time last year a mad man occupied the White House. Today

sanity has been restored in the person of our new President Joe Biden. A year ago the Pandemic shut down our churches. Today we can **Zoom** and **Go to Meeting** to keep our churches thriving in order to meet the needs of congregations.

The question now is do these facts alone put this question to rest or is there still a need for the question to be answered? Well I can answer that question. It all depends on you. In Galatians 2:20 Paul states *“I am crucified with Christ Never the less I live and yet not I but Christ liveth in me. And this life that I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me.”* Paul is here teaching by example what it means to embrace the indwelling of Christ in our lives. We become his hand, his feet his eyes his ears, and his voice. Most importantly we become His heart. When

Jesus tells us to love one another as he has loved us we are left with no other option than to love like Jesus! Does Jesus Care? As we like Paul become all things to all men by all means we prove just how much Jesus Cares.

Yes we still have much that ails this country. We still have a journey ahead of us and we still have miles to go before we sleep, but I truly believe that as we allow Christ to live within us “...my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

As I come to the close of today's message I want to go back for a moment to our Scripture text for today. For you see even though the disciples panicked, they did one thing right, they went to Jesus. Their reason was wrong. Their actions were offensive, and their faith had failed, but at least they went to Jesus. Jesus did not shake his head in disgust. He didn't scorn them for their

lack of faith. He didn't take affront to the audaciousness of their question. No. The scripture says in Mark 4:39 "And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, **Peace, be still.** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

When the storms of life come upon us and they will come. Don't question whether or not Jesus cares just ask him to use you as his vessel to speak peace to the storm and there will be great calm. Does Jesus Care? Yes my brothers and sisters Jesus sees and cares.

