



CROSS & CROWN



Mark 4:35-41 [NIV]

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Circumstances always reveal OUR trustworthiness, not just HIS.

Oxymoron: a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction

James 1:12 (The Passion Translation)

¹² If your faith remains strong, even while surrounded by life's difficulties, you will continue to experience the untold blessings of God! True happiness comes as you pass the test with faith, and receive the victorious crown of life promised to every lover of God!

Galatians 2:20 [ESV]

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Where are you letting circumstances shape what Jesus has already DEFINED?

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need new LIFE in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness.
I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In Your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text “FAITH” to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

:: Share a time you experienced a “storm” in life. (i.e. a life-threatening dynamic, significant difficulty or hardship, etc.)

:: What did you do in that moment/season?

:: What happened as a result?

:: What might you want to do differently, or the same, if you could?

:: Read Mark 4:35-41.

:: What stands out to you as you reflect on what did and didn't happen?

:: What did the disciples do? What could they have done differently?

:: Jesus said they had “no faith.” What would a faith-filled response be?

:: How do you tend to react when you feel like God is indifferent to difficulties you face? Why is that?

:: Understanding that circumstances reveal our trustworthiness/faith, what are some circumstances that can cause or tempt people to doubt God's trustworthiness?

:: Recall a time when circumstances created a space to demonstrate trust.

:: What did you do? What did God do in response?

:: Read James 1:12. What might Jesus want to show/remind you through this verse?

:: Where are you tempted to look at circumstances more than Jesus in this season?

:: Identify 1 thing you can do this week to more fully embrace and experience the power and authority of Jesus.

“...the Lord will do what he has promised.”
Isaiah 38:7b

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Shawn Cossin (@shawncossin) – March 6 & 7, 2021

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Join us for these great in-person opportunities:

9 & 11am Worship Services – Sundays at the Rock Island & Bettendorf campuses
(expanded worship times begin on March 7th)

In-person Heritage Kids ministry (ages 4-3rd Grade) begins March 14th at 9am.

See heritageqc.com and the Church Center App for more info!



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