

Sermon ~ Sunday, November 22, 2020 by Pastor D. Benoit

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Text: Matthew 14: 22-33

Title: "NO, Never Alone!"

These *godly inspired words*, uttered through Mrs. Ludie D. Pickett, 1897, I encourage, we *meditate* upon; *inhale/exhale* them, and, in good-health, *inspire* someone else!

Its really been longer than this year 2020. We have been made to seem that this *season* (Thanksgiving/Christmas/New Year's) has been stopped in its tracks!

This time of families coming together... the roadways, highways, airways, waterways, filled with travelers (the masses of College students returning home) from great distances, to be with loved ones, for a day or two... this time of sharing and giving... has become so fearful, frightening, fretful, by this *raging storm* of COVID-19!

This is especially true of the so many, previously 'sicken with *loneliness*,' by the passing of loved ones... the 1.2 million plus who have died to COVID-19... the estimated 100,000 to infected by December 2020... What a *stormy*... dreadful, dreading, dreary *season*

"it is, and can continue to be!"

BUT hear these *inspiring words*...

"NO, Never Alone!"

***JESUS** *always* comes in the *storm*!

***JESUS** *promised*, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee!"

***JESUS is WHO** we *must* look to (not, the *storms*); don't turn to Alcohol, Drugs, Anger, Depression, Downs, Doubting-dumps, Yielding temptations... See **JESUS!!!**

This **WORD from GOD** (Matthew 14: 22-33) declares,

- Help is available, in this Hour of Need!

JESUS *always* comes in the *storm*! Verses 22 and 23... it had been a great relief to escape *the pressures of the crowds* (**HIS** disciples *caught-up* in the excitement, v. 22; no personal lesson learned from the Miracle: feeding 5,000 with two fish/five loaves; needing to be *calmed* and kept from making a serious mistake), **JESUS** *turns* to the place of *prayer*.

JESUS *knew* they would be *fighting* a *storm*! **HE** *knew* they would be *struggling* against a *storm*! **JESUS** *knew* they would be *battling* for survival, due to a *storm*! **JESUS** *knew* they would *strain out of strength*, as the result of a coming *storm*!

JESUS wanted this lesson learned: **MY presence** would always be with you!

Not necessarily *physically*, but definitely *spiritually*.

Learn also, "**Trust ME!**" "**Trust ME!**" "**Trust ME!**"

"NO, Never Alone!"

- Preparation is Necessary!

CHRIST prepared by *praying!* These are times when *prayer*, real, true, *prayer* to **GOD**, is needed!

Since **JESUS** sensed the need to *pray*, how much more should we? *So much* has happened, *is* happening and *shall* happen. *So much* has drained and exhausted us and there is more coming. *So many* temptations, traps and trials, yet to bare.

BUT since **JESUS** was determine to pay our *Redemptive Price* (*die* on Calvary's Cross; be *buried* in the grave and *rise* from the dead), **HE** needed time alone with **GOD!!!**

Why? To be *renewed* and *strengthened!* To *recover*, a clear perspective of *Mission/Purpose!* To *recharge* with **GOD'S Power** and singleness of heart, to do **HIS Will!** Since **JESUS** *prayed*, what about you, me, us???

- JESUS uses the elements we dread the Paths for HIS Approach!

--*Waters* are deep... the ship was now in the midst of the sea... far from land... v. 24

--*Waves* endangering the ship... v. 24

--*Winds* are contrary... v. 24

--*Watch*, is the fourth watch of the night (3-6am) ... v. 25

BUT **JESUS**, comes *Walking* on the sea... *Walking* on the *waters*, *waves*, *winds* and *watch*... vss. 24-25

In our lives, there are people and circumstances we dread, BUT it is through these, that the greatest *Blessing* of our lives will come, *'if'* we look through them to **JESUS CHRIST!!!**

- JESUS coming, sometimes is Delayed!

--When **HE** had "constrained **HIS** disciples to get into a ship and go before **HIM** to the other side..." v. 22

--"When the evening was come..." v. 23

--"The ship now in the midst of the sea..." v. 24

--"In the fourth watch of the night..." v. 25

--The gray dawn was already beginning to spread...

--The disciple's strength was spent...

JESUS was not too late to be of service, but just in time to save them from despair!

Be of "*good cheer!*" And, "*if'*" **JESUS** bids you to *Come* [an invitation indeed... "Come unto **ME** all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take **MY** yoke upon you, and learn of **ME**, for **I AM** meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For **MY** yoke is easy, and **MY** burden is light." Matthew 11: 28-30]

Even on the *water*, that is, **HIS WORD**, "*Come.*" Always believe that **HIS** commands are enabling. KEEP Looking to **HIM**, not at the *storms!!!*

“NO, Never Alone!”

I've seen the lightening flashing,
I've heard the thunder roll.
I've felt sins breakers dashing,
Which almost conquered my soul.
I've heard **The VOICE** of my **SAVIOUR**,
Bidding me still to fight on.
HE promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone!

NO, Never Alone, no never alone,
HE promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

The world's fierce winds are blowing,
Temptations sharp and keen.
I have a peace in knowing, my **SAVIOUR** stands between –
HE stands to shield me from danger
When my friends are all gone.
HE promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone!

NO, Never Alone, no never alone,
HE promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.

When in affliction's Valley
I tread the road of care,
My **SAVIOUR** help me carry
The CROSS so heavy to bear;
Though all around me is darkness,
Earthly joys all flown;
My **SAVIOUR** whispers **HIS** promise,
Never to leave me alone!

HE dies on Calvary's mountain,
For me they pierced **HIS** side.
For me **HE** opened that fountain,
The crimson, cleansing tide.
For me **HE** waiteth in Glory,
Seated upon **HIS Throne**.
HE promised never to leave me'
Never to leave me alone!

NO, Never Alone, no never alone,
HE promised never to leave me,
Never to leave me alone.