

waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost." They said, and cried out in fear.

A. These disciples must be **admired**.

What do you think they were doing?

B. It is midnight, and Jesus hasn't shown ...

The disciples do not recognize Him. Why?

1. They were too busy **complaining**.
2. They were too busy **fighting** the storm in the flesh.
3. They were not **looking** for Him.

IV. Christ Will Help Me Grow

Vs. 29 – 31 ²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

A. The picture of divine love meeting **human need**.

KEY: Christ's presence stirs the hope of being **saved**.

B. Peter's Faith vs. 31 **"little Faith"** = Faith that lacks confidence or trust ... too little or under-developed faith.

Four Rules – If you're going to walk on water and grow spiritually;

1. Don't **listen** to people in the boat.
2. Don't **look** at the waves.
3. Don't look at your **feet**.
4. Do keep your **eyes** on Jesus!

KEY: Christ will **see** me through eventually.

Vs. 32 – 34 ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." ³⁴ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret.

Conclusion:

Five Assurances IN this passage that we can count on ... When Life Falls Apart –

1. Christ **brought** me here.
2. Christ is **praying** for me.
3. Christ will **come** to me
4. Christ will **help** me grow spiritually.
5. Christ will **see** me through eventually.

Isaiah 25:4 You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall.

First Church of God

July 15, 2012

Sermon Outline
Pastor, Robert G. White

"Christ's Presence – When Life Falls Apart"

Matthew 14: 22 – 34

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "**Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.**" ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ "**Come,**" he said. Then Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "**You of little faith,**" he said, "**why did you doubt?**" ³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” ³⁴ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret.

Introduction:

What do we do when life falls apart?

I. Christ Brought Me Here

Vs. ²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

A. The storm came because the disciples were in God’s will.

“Buffeted” means to be tossed about with great force. Vs. 24.

B. A careful study of God’s word reveals that there are two kinds of storms:

1. There are storms of correction when God disciplines us.

Hebrews 12: 5 – 10

⁵ “And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, ⁶ because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.” ⁷ Endure hardships as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by

his father? ⁸ If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline). Then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! ¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good that we may share in his holiness.

2. There are storms of perfection, when Christ permits the storm to help conform us to his image.

Key: Remember: God is Sovereign, and the one who sent you into the storm can care for you.

II. Christ Is Praying for Me.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns?

Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

A. When life falls apart, we sometimes feel as if Jesus has deserted us!

Where is Jesus when we’re rowing against the wind? He is praying for you.

John 17:20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.”

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

B. What does His prayer for you and I include?

1. That your faith won’t fail.
2. That you will not fail because of the mood of the mob, which chased after Jesus because of his miracles.
3. He is praying that you won’t give up and go under in the storm.

If you knew that Jesus Christ was in the next room praying for you ... would it give you new courage to endure the storm and to do His will?

Part II

July 22, 2012

III. Christ Will Come to Me

Vs. 24 – 26 ²⁴ But the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the