Faith in the Middle

1. **When the Storms Roll In**
   1. Our current world has an overwhelming feel.
   2. How do react in faith when life takes you for a ride you didn’t sign up for?
   3. Faith isn’t about our greatness, but the greatness of the God in whom we trust.
2. **A Literal Storm**
   1. As Jesus and his disciples take a trip across the Sea of Galilee a storm arises.
      1. **Mark 4:35** (NIV) *That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.”*
      2. Jesus sleeps, but his disciples panic.
      3. Their faith sank with the boat.
      4. **Mark 4:38** (NIV) *“Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”*
   2. The sleeping Jesus demonstrates his trust in his Heavenly Father.
      1. **Mark 10:15** (NIV) *“Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”*
      2. A childlike faith still trusts God in a storm.
      3. Jesus’ sleep reminds us of the heart behind Psalm 4:8 (NIV), *“In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.”*
   3. The disciples’ faith changed with their emotions.
      1. When chaos comes, fear can drain us of faith.
      2. The object of our faith, Jesus, has not changed, only our emotions.
3. **The Miracle**
   1. **Mark 4:39** (NIV), *He got up, rebuked the wind and say to the wave, “Quiet! Be Still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*
      1. The sea was a symbol of evil and chaos.
      2. He forced the sea and wind to stop making noise.
      3. When Jesus tamed the waters, he demonstrated his authority over evil and that he is God.
   2. **Mark 4:40-41** (NIV), *He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”*
      1. The answer to that question is what matters most. Who is Jesus?
      2. Faith is not just positive thoughts. Faith is a firm belief in Jesus’ authority to do what he has promised to do.
   3. **John 14:1** (NIV), *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.”*
      1. We don’t have to be troubled because we are firmly convinced of the answer to the disciples’ question.
      2. Jesus is God.
      3. The disciples later stood up to challenges because they were firmly convinced of God’s presence with them.
      4. We aren’t promised a storm free life, but we are promised God’s presence.
         1. **Matthew 28:20** (NIV), *“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*
         2. **Philippians 4:9** (NIV), *“And the God of peace will be with you.”*
4. **The Lord is Helping Us**
   1. What if we take Jesus at his word and put more faith in him than we do the storm clouds that surround us?
   2. There is no storm that we face that God can bring us through to the other side because of the hope we have in Jesus.
   3. **1 Corinthians 15:57** (NIV), *But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*