

HEBREWS 12:1-2(NLTSE) “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honour beside God’s throne”

- Recap: last week we learnt some lessons from the disciples’ experience in the boat with Jesus from MARK 4:35-41
- This week we’ll take a closer look at their experience on the boat
- Considering that these were experienced fishermen, familiar with the dangerous nature of the waters, why did they wait till their lives were in danger, before asking Jesus for help?
- Why do we first try everything else and when nothing works, we turn to God as a last resort?
- Shouldn’t we start our search for breakthrough, with God first?
- Have you heard of the expression: :being caught with your pants down?”

2 CHRONICLES 16:12(NLTSE) In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a serious foot disease. Yet even with the severity of his disease, he did not seek the LORD’s help but turned only to his physicians.

- King Asa went to doctors instead of God also and died as a result

LUKE 6:47-48(NLTSE) “I will show you what it’s like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built”

- This builder’s house stood the test of the storm because his house was built before the storm came
- We need daily spiritual sustenance whether we’re in a storm or not:

LUKE 11:3(NLTSE) Give us each day the food we need

Proverbs 30:25(NLTSE) Ants, they aren’t strong, but they store up food all summer

- Ants make provision for the lean tough times, when it’s going good in summer. We should do the same too
- Our expectation must be that God is going to bless us, but be ready for the persecution when it comes:

2 TIMOTHY 3:12 Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

- Persecution for the word’s sake: **MARK 4:17** and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.

1 PETER 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

LUKE 12:32 “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

- What is the Kingdom? **ROMANS 14:17** for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

PROVERBS 21:31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD.

- Let’s never underestimate the devil’s intentions but also never forget God’s power of deliverance

1 PETER 5:7-9(NLTSE) Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. 8 Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 9 Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are

- The devil is like a lion, Jesus IS the lion

REVELATION 5:5 Lion of the tribe of Judah

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What do you understand by the phrase: “being caught with your pants down?”
2. Luke 6:47-48 speaks of a builder building before a storm. How does this principle apply to our spiritual lives?
3. What areas of your spiritual life, could you be better prepared for the devil’s attack? Pray with each other regarding these vulnerabilities.