

## **COURAGE 12: COURAGE TO CLIMB YOUR HILL**    2019-08-18

**MARK 11:23(NLTSE)** I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart

**LUKE 23:33(NLTSE)** When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left.

(Aramaic=Golgotha, Calvary, in Latin means bald head or skull)

- I wonder what would have happened to us, if Jesus prayed for the hill called Calvary, to be removed and thrown into the sea?
- Are there hills or mountains in our lives, that we're praying to be removed?
- What if the hill or mountain that we are wanting taken out of our lives, is the very place God wants us to die to self on?
- Jesus chose to accept His destiny, as the saviour of mankind, when He had the free will to walk away from it:

**LUKE 22:42(NLTSE)** "Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine

- Think about the fact that He created the very hill on which He'd be crucified.
- So many of us are praying for the storms in our lives to end. Storms which God wants to use to strengthen and train us for greater things to come.
- No sailor ever becomes skilled on calm seas.
- Should we not be praying to find Jesus in the middle of our storms?
- Should we not be praying to see Him walking on the water, calling us to join Him
- Should we not be letting Him take us to places in our walk of faith, where we'll do the seemingly impossible, as He enables us?

### **MATTHEW 14:22-33(NLTSE)**

- Although he sank, Peter still walked on water when others didn't
- Peter's faith was built stronger here and only here, in the middle of his storm and NOT when everything was going his way.
- Peter later needs this faith, to believe in the restorative power of the grace of Christ, after he'd denied Jesus three times:

**MARK 14:30(NLTSE)** Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me.

**JOHN 21:15-17(NLTSE)** "After breakfast Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," Peter replied, "you know I love you." "Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him.

Jesus repeated the question: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" "Yes, Lord," Peter said, "you know I love you." "Then take care of my sheep," Jesus said.

A third time he asked him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt that Jesus asked the question a third time. He said, "Lord, you know everything. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Then feed my sheep."

- It was only through the training he'd received in the storm, that Peter acquired the faith to believe, that the God in front of whom he sank, is the same God who'll restore him to do wondrous works in His name.

- The fruit from this stormy experience in Peter's life, became evident when he preached his first sermon and three thousand people got saved:

**ACTS 2:41(NLTSE)** Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day, about 3,000 in all.

- There's a kind of suffering that we'll all have to endure as Christians, if we're serious about becoming mature representatives of God's Kingdom.

**COLOSSIANS 1:24(NLTSE)** I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am ***participating in the sufferings*** of Christ that continue for his body, the church.

- What hills are we facing, as we participate in the sufferings of Christ?

**ROMANS 8:18(NTSE)** Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later

**2 TIMOTHY 3:12(NLTSE)** Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution

**1 PETER 4:1(NLTSE)** So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin.

**1 PETER 5:8-9(NLTSE)** Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. 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.

- We'll never live in the resurrection power of Christ, without also embracing the sufferings He went through
- It's only through experiencing God's mighty deliverance in our lives, that we'll be able to effectively share that deliverance with others in need of it.
- Jesus accepted the suffering He went through on the cross, resulting in our salvation.
- There are things we must go through, if we want to play a role in people coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ
- There's a meme which says: I tried to throw in the towel, but God threw it back and said: "Wipe your face, you're almost there"

### **CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Discuss why you think people want to avoid uncomfortable or painful circumstances.
2. What kind of suffering do think is referred to in **COLOSSIANS 1:24?**, after all, hasn't Jesus done all the suffering for us already? And if so, in what ways must we still suffer?
3. Discuss the "hills" or storms you're facing in your life. In what ways are you struggling and in what manner is God giving you victory in these areas?