

Learning from Peter's Journey of Faith Pt 4

2 Pt 3:18 *"Grow in Grace and in the Knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ"*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Wed. Apr. 29

Learning to "walk by Faith" is not entirely unlike learning to walk physically in both require:

- Someone to help "guide" us. (*Teach us how to walk.*)
- Someone to help "guard" us. (*Identify obstacles that might trip us up.*)
- Someone to help "grow" us. (*Encourage us to develop our muscles and skill and Help us to get up when we stumble.*)

We won't get too far on this "journey of faith" before we walk into a "Crisis"!

The word "crisis" comes from krisis which means *"a decision or turning point (in a disease)."*

A "Crisis" is something that causes us to "decide" or "turn" in a new direction!

As such, God can use times of crisis to help "guide" as well as "grow" our Faith!

Consider Peter's journey of faith.

1. Begins as Curious: Jn 1:29-43

2. Curiosity becomes Conviction. Mt. 4; Lk 4

3. Conviction leads to a Call to Follow Christ: *"Follow Me"* Mt 4:19 and Luke 5:11

A. The Call involves a choice. Lk 5:11 *"they forsook all, and followed him."*

B. The Call involves a commitment to become part of a "Congregation" that:

- 1) Listens: Mt 4:23 *"Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching... and preaching the gospel of the kingdom..."*
"He that hath an ear, Let him hear what the Spirit saith" 7 times in Rev 2,3
- 2) Looks: Witnessed Miraculous Ministry: Mt 4:23,24 *"and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria..."*
- 3) Learns: Mt 11:28,29 *"Learn of me"* Jesus' ministry challenged Peter's prejudices:
a) Touched Lepers. Mt. 8:2,3 b) Helped Romans (8:5-13) c) Healed Peter's Mother in law. (8:14-15)
- 4) Leaves their comfort zones. Mt 8:24 *"When He entered the ship, his disciples followed him..."*

4. CRISIS: They ran into a terrible Storm. Mt 8:24 *"a great tempest..."*

A. The Root (source) of the Crisis. Mk 4:38 *"we perish"* Apol'lymi: To Destroy Rev 9:11

B. The Reaction of the Disciples. (fell into some of Satan's snares)

- 1) Doubt. Mk 4:38 *"Carest thou not...?"*
- 2) Fear. Mark 4:40 *"why are ye so fearful?"*

C. The Rebuke of the Lord. Mt 8:26; Mk 4:41

- 1) He Rebuked the storm Mt 8:26
- 2) He Rebuked the Disciples. *"Why are ye fearful" (faithless)*

Do you think they learned the lesson of this Crisis? Why/Why Not?

God will continue to allow Crises until He's accomplished his purposes. (Jms 1:2-4; Is 48:10,11)

And so the Crises Continue!

Immediately after crossing they're confronted by demoniacs. Mark 5:1-20

1) The Demons recognize and worship Jesus! Vs 5,6 What does this reveal...

About the storm? About Jesus' power? (Phil. 2:10; Col. 1:16) About the man?

2) After healing the man, the people show up, notice the difference, (Mk 15:15) and ask Jesus to leave. (What does this reveal?)

Observations

1) The Disciples failed to recognize who Jesus really was (Mk 4:41) but the Demoniac immediately recognized Him and worshipped! (Mk. 5:6)

2) Jesus had the power to send the Demons to hell...

Mt 8:29 *"art thou come hither to torment us before the time?"*

Lk 8:31 *"They besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep."*

So Why didn't Jesus send the demons to hell?

a) Perhaps they had a "right" to be there!

The "country of the Gadarenes" was part of Decapolis (10 cities) around the sea of Galilee.

They were a mixture of Jews & Gentiles. (like the Samaritans on the West Side)

Perhaps the "Jews" had compromised and invited the Demonic presence/ principality.

3) The people seemed more comfortable with the Demoniac before He met Jesus, than they were after!

➤ Why do you think this might have been so?

➤ What was their response to Jesus? Mt 8:34; Mk 5:17; Luke 8:37)

➤ What motivated their request? (FEAR)

It appears that They'd rather live with their fear of Satan than God!

4) Why didn't Jesus allow the healed man to join them?

Luke 8:39 *"Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee.*

And he ... published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

Mk 5:20 *"and he... began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel. "*

He became a missionary to 10 cities!

5) Do you think the disciples (and Peter) might have had Similar questions about these events?

If so, why didn't they ask them?

After another Demoniac Deliverance, Luke 9:43-46 records that *"they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples, Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.*

Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest. . . "