

**2008#9Gos John –WHEN THINGS ARE OUT OF CONTROL
JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER John 6:16-24**

There are many things that seem to control our lives.
Or at least seem to want to take control.

Historians have related the story of Abdul Kassem Ismael,
the scholarly grand-vizier of Persia in the tenth century,
and his library of 117,000 volumes.
On his many travels as a warrior and statesman,
he never parted with his beloved books.
There were carried about by 400 camels trained to walk in alphabetical order.
His camel-driver librarians could put their hands instantly
on any book their master asked for. ((Isaac Asimov's)

What happens when the camel gets sick?
How often do we think we are in charge?
We have it in hand.
We are in the driver's seat
Only to find out that it's not like that at all.

We have lost our grasp like sand slipping through our fingers.
We like to be in control.
We like to have things our own way.
But sometimes God has a different plan.
And if we are really honest
Most of us would have to agree that God's way is best.

That is exactly what happened to Jesus.
He had just feed the 5000 and now the
people wanted to decided what was best for themselves.

I. PUBLIC WANTED TO BE IN CONTROL

**15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force,
withdrew again to a mountain by himself. John 6:15**

The public wanted to make him king by force.
They wanted a worldly government.
They wanted it their way.
They wanted it now,
Not God's way.
They wanted it by force.
People can be as cruel as an earthquake and
Cantankerous as weeds.

We have a world full of people who are just like that,
If they see what they want they will take it anyway they can.
Or move you any direction they want.
Some may have good intentions.
They have dreams for us and our world.
I'm sure they had dreams for Jesus.

Sometimes they are our spouses,
Sometime it's our parents.

SLIDE...They have a career picked out for us.

A track of education,
Jobs lined up, that take us down roads we don't want to go.

(KHĪM PŌ-tok) **Chaim Potok was a very religious young man who from an early age,** knew he wanted to be a writer. But his mother wasn't so sure. When he went away to college she said, "Son, now I know you want to be a writer. But I want you to think about brain surgery.

You'll keep a lot of people from dying. And you'll make a lot of money."

To which Potok responded, "No, Mama, I want to be a writer."

But, "No," is not what Mama wanted to hear.

So, every vacation break for four years she would repeat her comments about his becoming a brain surgeon and keeping people from dying and making a lot of money, and his response was always the same. **No Mama, I want to be a writer.**

Finally the son had enough, and, when the same mantra began,

he cut off his mother with exasperation, and with great passion he told his mother, "Mama, I don't want to keep people from dying, I want to show them how to live."

The crowd wanted Jesus to be an earthly king.

Jesus sole purpose in life was to please God.

To do the will of his Heavenly Father.

He did not let the crowd take him by force.

Because he saw that behind this was the demonic conspiracy that

Was seeking to destroy his mission.

SLIDE...He headed for the hills.

There are times when all we can do is to head for the hills

To run, flee from the temptation to give in.

Friends you can be assured that

No matter how long you live there will

Always be someone who seeks to distract you from

What you were created to be, and what you were created to do.

Satan is a deceiver and a destroyer.

But be assured that public opinion, protest, political correctness,

Is a powerful force,

but it will not have the last say:

God is still in control.

Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook?

Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft. In kindness he takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life-change.

Romans 2:4 Message

He can change the course of rivers and the hearts of kings

To bring about his plan and purpose for your life..

But second we see that sometimes

II. PRINCIPALITIES WANT TO BE IN CONTROL.

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, 17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them.

Have you ever had your well-meaning plan go sour on you?

Because of unexpected circumstances,
things beyond your control?

It can be a disease.

a cancer that comes.

A death, an icy road, a foggy night,

Maybe a snow storm,

A love one get sick.

I was visiting Israel on a 9 day tour in 1982,

When I got the call my father was in the hospital with
Quadruple Bypass surgery. It had failed. He was failing.

Could I come home.

All the best laid plans, tickets, passports,

Were laid aside to be at my family side.

Whatever it may be, it says

18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. John 6:18

It seeks to change the direction of our lives.

Redefine our plans our future forever.

The possibilities in this passage are not good.

The disciples needed to cross the 8 miles of this lake.

In the dark,

With 12 person in one boat,

They didn't have an Evinrude or Johnson motor.

They were rowing.

And they were 3 or 4 miles out when the storm hit.

It was rough waters.

It was not the kind of boat ride they were expecting.

Far from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. Matthew 14:24

And the sea arose...

the waves mounted up,

and tossed the boat to and fro:

What is ironic about this all is that

Jesus had told them to go.

Did he send them out into the storm?

I don't think so.

But he was watching them.

In Mark's Gospel it says:

"He saw them toiling in rowing" (Mr 6:48),

Jesus was up on the mountain praying,

And he could see them.

SLIDE-----It's not like they were outside his ready observation.

Maybe you can relate to that kind of failure in your life.
 As the walls close in,
 The creditors knock,
 The relationships are stretched.
 We take our eyes off Jesus,

We forget that he promised

I will never fail you nor forsake you. Hebrews 13:5

We began to look at our hands,
 And our power
 And our oars as we attempt to save ourselves.
 And the storm redirects our thinking process.
 They forgot, that

**If they had been able to see Jesus on the mountain,
 He could also see them.**

Haven't we all been caught off guard by changing circumstances?
 That have caused us to take our eyes off Jesus.
 Off our goals, our mission?
 It can happen even in the church.

Dr. Tony Campolo was doing some research for his denominations archives. He looked up a church that Forty years ago in Philadelphia had baptized three, 9 years olds boys who then joined the church that year. But because of its dwindling membership, the church sold the building and disbanded. The church report that year said: "It has not been a good year for our church. We lost 27 members. Three joined. And they were only children.

In looking up the three boys, he discovered the first was Dick White who is now a missionary. Bert Newman, the second who is now a professor of theology at an African seminary. And his own name Tony Campolo author and Christian sociologist at Eastern college in Pennsylvania.

Only three joined, and they were but children.

We must not allow the principalities or power
 To distract us from our mission and goal.

**they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were terrified.
 John 6:19**

They were terrified,
 In the dark night and deepening waves.
 not of the storm,
 But of their fears,
 They thought it was a spirit- apparition
 Of a dead man walking on the water.

The storm caused them to forget that Jesus said he would join them.
But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." John 6:20

**The promise of the Gospel is that
 Christ comes to us.**

In the midst of danger and peril
 In the midst of church closings,
 And job loss,

And failed relationship
And brings heaven to us.

21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, John 6:21

their first fears being now converted into wonder and delight.
the little bark boat--propelled by the secret power of the Lord of Nature
was suddenly at the shoreline.

and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading John 6:20-21

When Jesus is with us.

There is no power greater outside us.

But he is sufficient to supply all our needs

According to his riches in glory.

However,

These past few days I have been pondering
a different meaning for this passage..

What if it was not about the 12 disciples.

But about Satan's attempt to discredit and destroy
the ministry and mission of Jesus.

That this was a threefold conspiracy,

That when Satan's attempt failed to get the crowd to make him king.

He moved to "plan B" in his attempt to destroy Jesus ministry.

SLIDE-----All 12 disciples were in one boat.

Jesus whole cabinet was in the middle of a big lake,

All Satan needed was one good storm,

Jesus would have to start all over,

Big lake

Big waves

Big terror.

Big disaster

Friends there is a bigger battle going on in our world

Than what we can see.

We do wrestle against flesh and blood,

but also against principalities and powers.

But let us remember what Satan and the Disciples forgot.

Had they spent more time in the Word of God

They would have known what Job say as the distinguishing prerogative of GOD

**"WHO ALONE spreadeth out the heavens, and TREADETH UPON THE WAVES
OF THE SEA" Job 9:8**

Or the proverbs

**GATHER THE WIND IN HIS FISTS, and BIND THE WATERS IN A
GARMENT. Proverbs 30:4**

He who has power over the winds and the waves

Has all power.

They worship him,

And they acknowledge him to be the Son of God.

And last we see:

III. The EVIL SPIRITS WERE IN CONTROL

Matthew 8:²⁸When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes,^{F34} two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.

Marks Gospel only depict one demoniac.

Here we see the 3rd attempt of the attacks on Jesus ministry.

This one comes from two demon possessed men.

They were so violent that the people couldn't keep them in chains

They would break the chains,

Mark 5: 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.

They lived in the tombs.

They caused terror on all around.

5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. Mark 5:5

Satan's 3rd attempt to destroy Jesus and his ministry

Was with the use of demonic spirits.

Here in Gadera were men so possessed with evil

and so powerful they were out of all known control.

Think about the carnage they had caused,

The damage they had done.

The people they had maimed and killed.

But when they met Jesus

Filled with the legion of demonic spirits,

They were no more match for him than the storm.

SLIDE.....They fell at his feet

Jesus touched them

The Legion of demons came out.

It says:

15 When the people came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

Mark 5:15

Demonic men now sitting,

Dressed,

And in their right minds.

Friend it does not matter where we are.

But God cares about us.

And Jesus wants to minister to us

Whether were facing the misguided reasoning of people or public opinion,

The principalities of the weather and storm,

Or the power of demonic spirits and unseen events.

Jesus presence in us is enough.

To calm the storm

And drive out the demons of despair.

And we need but trust him

As we walk thru the valley called living.