

BUCYRUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH July 30, 2023

“IN THE EYE OF THE STORM, YOU REMAIN IN CONTROL”

Addison Pelter

Text - Isaiah 43:2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

In the Eye of the Storm, You remain in control. This is from the song Eye of the Storm and something that I repeat time to time again when things aren't going well. The text that was just read sums this up. What it says is that no matter what you're going through everything will work out because God is on your side. What you have to remember is that there may be trials and tribulations but God will not put you into a situation that he knew you couldn't handle. Romans 8:18, "The pain that you've been feeling, can't compare to the joy that is coming."

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. God remains in control during our storms or when our paths aren't straight. All we need to do is trust in God with all of our heart and pray to Him.

I have a daily devotional book that I read every night. It's called Jesus Calling By: Sarah Young. The devotion from June 1st reminded me of how God will be with me in the good times and the bad times or in the storms. It said, "I am involved in each moment of your life. I have carefully mapped out every inch of your journey through this day, even though much of it may feel haphazard. Because the world is in a fallen condition, things always seem to be unraveling around the edges. Expect to find trouble in this day. At the same time, trust that *My way is perfect*, even in the midst of such messy imperfection. Stay conscious of Me as you go through this day, remembering that I never leave your side. Let the Holy Spirit Guide you step by step, protecting you from unnecessary trials and equipping you to get through whatever must be endured. As you trudge through the sludge of this fallen world, keep your mind in heavenly places with Me. Thus the Light of My Presence shines on you, giving you Peace and Joy that circumstances cannot touch." I know I just read a lot, so to sum up what I read it said that even though your life may not seem right, it is perfect because God created it. You also need to expect trouble everyday but remember that God never leaves your side. This means that In the Eye of the Storm, God remains in control.

There's a verse from Exodus 14:14 that says, "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." What this is saying is that you need to stop worrying and stop trying to solve your troubles on your own. Go to God and He will be with you and help you get through it. God makes it easy for us. He's the one that has to face and solve our problems, we only need to believe and go to Him. Yes, it may sometimes seem like life is hard, which yes it is. The important thing to remember though is that God will always be with us. Sometimes God seems quiet...just remember that no one shouts when they are right beside you.

One day I was on Tik Tok and I came across this video that said you don't have to change before you go to God, going to God is what changes you. When I read this I paused for a second and thought about how deep that is. It's amazing that we have a God who will help us no matter who we are and he loves everyone the same. He'll always be in control during our storms.

John 13:7 says, "Jesus replied, "You do not realize what I am doing now, but later you will understand." It's hard to listen to this verse sometimes because it is telling you to be patient. I don't know about you all, but sometimes I want things to go my way. We have to understand that God's way is the right and perfect way. An example of this verse is being in a storm. You want it to go away and for everything to be perfect, but guess what? God will put you in storms because He wants to teach you something. Everything happens for a reason.

One time I was in Sunday school and we had to respond to a writing prompt. In the end, what everyone wrote would be combined in what we called our Psalm. Two weird things happened with mine though. Number one: I didn't want to write it but I asked God to help me write it and I enjoyed it and it was easy to do. The second thing that happened is that this relates to what I am talking about today and this was months ago when I didn't even know that I was going to write this sermon. I am now going to read what I wrote that day. "When I fall down, God picks me up. When I have a plan, God has a better one. God is working in the waiting. When I am struggling, God is making me a better person through it. When I don't believe in myself, He does! God is forever!" All of the things that I wrote translates to In the Eye of the Storm, You remain in control. Even if you don't understand what God is doing now, someday you will. This is because God has a perfect plan and a purpose for all of your lives and nothing can get in the way of it. Isaiah 60:22 says, "When the time is right, I the Lord will make it happen."

Philippians 4:13, "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Just remember that in the eye of the storm, God remains in control and if you have God, you have all you need.