

“Right in the Middle”

A Lord’s Flock General Assembly Topic

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In some situations, the middle spot is usually where all the unwanted events happen – we feel equally far from where we started, but also far from the ending. The middle of a situation is also when it is most tempting to just give up because of exhaustion. The disciples were in the middle of a crisis when their Messiah, Jesus, died. But, in the middle of their fear, Jesus showed up. “Jesus came and stood right in the middle and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ ... The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord” (John 20:19). God chooses to intentionally show up right in the middle of our own fears and struggles; He will bring us calm, peace and comfort.

I. 4 Things That Brought Calm to the Disciples:

A. Jesus’ Presence Calmed Them.

1. How the disciples went out of their situation was the total opposite of how they came in. They came in afraid, hunch-backed, and nervous. However, with the presence of Jesus, they came out triumphant, bold, and comforted. Even after they were put in prison, they never stopped preaching.

2. The presence of God unlocks peace. “For he himself is our peace...” (Eph 2:14).

3. Peace is not the absence of trouble, but peace is the presence of God. In the midst of this pandemic, economic uncertainty, or whatever our situation is, Jesus is right in the middle. In the same way, He gives us peace, serenity, and calmness. God has a plan to overwhelm our difficulties, so we can rise unafraid.

B. They were calmed by His Words.

1. As soon as He said, “Peace be with you!” everything was calmed. Their circumstances did not change, there was still danger, but they had no fear.

2. Similarly, the words of Jesus bring the gift of wellness-physically, emotionally, spiritually. Hence, we can give Him praise and celebrate right in the middle of our situation.

C. They were calmed by His Wounds

1. “...He showed them his hands and side” (John 20:20). The disciples were filled with exultant joy. His body that was full of wounds gave the disciples confidence that Jesus conquered death.

2. Moreover, His resurrection power is also alive in us today. God is going to get us through whatever we are experiencing in life.

3. Also, whatever wounds we have been afflicted with, Jesus has a plan to reconcile all things, and He will redeem us. The things we can not do for ourselves, He will do for us. He will be our Savior; He will have control of everything.

D. His Spirit

1. “And with that, He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). Everything they saw, they saw differently. The greatest expression that Jesus is in the middle was when He died in the middle of two criminals (John 19:18).

2. God is breathing His spirit in us so that we can see our circumstances differently. Hence, whatever we are dealing with, believe that there is power in us; we have the power, because Jesus is right in the middle.

II. Conclusion:

Every time we face an uncertain situation, the Lord is going to show up in our middle and He will give us peace and calm. Jesus is right in the middle of our space, of quarantine, of every mystery, crisis, or storm. We don’t know what tomorrow will bring, but God is always with us right in the middle, in our darkness, in our lowest. The middle is the place where the promise of God is. It is where His great works will happen in us and through us. The middle is a blessed place.

Reflection:

1. Were there instances in your life that you knew Jesus was in the middle despite uncertainty, challenges and doubt?
2. What was the outcome of such experience?

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