

LEARNING TO TRUST IN GOD

Mark 4:35-41

INTRODUCTION:

- I. In one of the books of a contemporary writer, he talks about remembering our childhood, and the **toys** we had then, and some of the **games** we played, and how we had to produce some of our own amusements. Do you remember the swings we used to make that were suspended from the branch of a tree? We learned a lot about trust from those swings, didn't we?
- A. We'd only allow certain people to push us, wouldn't we? They could twist us, or get us going in circles, or swing us as high as gravity and the length of that rope would allow; and our voices would ring out with joy and merriment, wouldn't they?
- B. But let a stranger get hold of our swing and our muscles tightened and we held on for dear life! It was no fun when our swing was in the hands of someone we didn't know, or someone we didn't trust!
- II. Read text... Mark 4:35-41
- A. This was no ordinary storm. Matthew calls it a "GREAT STORM" in Matt.8:24. From "*seismos*," the Greek word for **earthquake**). It sounds like it was frightening enough to almost scare the robes off a dozen disciples. Even a veteran fisherman like Peter thought this storm could be his last adventure in life!
- B. These disciples **ran to wake up Jesus**. Did you take note of that when we read? **Waves were tossing the boat around like popcorn in a popper and Jesus was asleep!** Water was flooding the deck and soaking the sailors and causing them great distress, but Jesus was SLEEPING!!
- C. How in the world could He sleep through such a storm? **IT'S SIMPLE!** He knew who was "pushing the swing," didn't He? The disciples' knees were knocking because their swing was being pushed by a stranger. Not so with Jesus. He could find peace in the storm.
- III. We live in a stormy world...
- A. Civil wars are taking place in many countries. Political turmoil exists in almost every country, even in many locations of our own! Economic chaos with global recession make jobs at home and abroad scarce.
- B. Nearly everywhere we look, PRIVATE STORMS (*sometimes of earthquake proportions*) are occurring, aren't they? Family deaths, financial problems, strained or broken marriages, where countless hearts are being broken for innumerable reasons!
- C. **AT LEAST in SOME areas of our lives**, many of us are **invariably looking** for peace in this tempestuous world ... but, in order to find it, we must KNOW that our swing is in the hands of God and put our TRUST in Him ... we need not be fearful.

I want to study with you for a few moments about trusting God, and the importance of that trust--

I. WHAT IS TRUST?

- A. The dictionary says that trust means "*to rely or depend upon someone or something. A firm belief or confidence in the honesty, integrity, and reliability of another; to feel sure of.*"
- B. We have heard comments about "TRUST" that others have seen---
1. In a child who jumps from a high place into his father's waiting arms.
 2. In one who co-signs a bank loan for a friend.
- C. With this kind of trust in mind, we can begin to see the depth of trust Jesus had in the Father when that little ship was on that storm-tossed sea; and this is the kind of trust in God that WE NEED IN ORDER TO FACE EARTH'S TURMOILS TODAY!

II. WE MUST LEARN TO PUT OUR TRUST IN GOD.

- A. We are not completely self-sufficient. We have necessities that we cannot fill ourselves; emergencies and obligations **we must trust to someone else for accomplishment.**

- B. We can't put our complete trust in other men, because few of us will yield to their competence in handling our problems. **Psa. 118:8-** *"It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man."*
- C. We can't even put our trust in our own might and power, because we've already proven too many times that our own inadequacy is what causes most of our problems, anyway! **Psa. 20:7-** *"Some boast in chariots and some in horses, But we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God."*
- D. SO, what's left? **We must put our trust in God. Psa. 18:1-2-** *"I love You, O LORD, my strength. 2) The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."* **Prov. 3:5-** *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding."*
 - 1. And this is the order we usually take, isn't it?
 - 2. We often act like we have to use up all our other assets and "contacts" before we appeal for the Lord's help in any situation!
 - 3. We show our **TRUST** when we cast our cares **ON HIM early on** in any situation!

III. GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, IS UNQUESTIONABLY WORTHY OF OUR TRUST.

A. Because of His CHARACTER...

- 1. **God is Holy**, i.e., He's pure, untainted by evil or sin. **Psa 99:3-** *"Let them praise Your great and awesome name; Holy is He."* **1 Pet 1:15-** *"but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;"*
- 2. **God is Just**, i.e., He's guided by truth, reason, justice, and fairness. **Deut.32:4-** *"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He."*
- 3. **God is Righteous**, i.e., He's morally right and justifiable in everything He does. **[Deut.32:4]**
- 4. **YOU CAN'T TRUST SOMEONE OF QUESTIONABLE CHARACTER. BUT YOU CAN TRULY TRUST IN GOD.**

B. Because of His COMPETENCE...

- 1. **God has the POWER to help us!** (Sometimes there are people who love us who want to help but can't, because they just don't have the ability or power to handle our needs!) **Gen.1:1; Isa.40:25-28-** *"To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One. 26) Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing. 27) Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God" 28) Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable."* **Heb.11:3-** *"By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."* **Rom.1:20-** *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."*
- 2. **God has the KNOWLEDGE to help us!** (Sometimes men may have the power to help but they don't know our needs or just don't know how to meet them!) **Isa.40:13-14-** *"Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? 14) With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding?"* **1 John 3:20-** *"in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things."*
- 3. **God is AVAILABLE to help us!** (Sometimes there are those who know about our needs and could help, but they're just not there!) **HOW DO WE KNOW GOD CAN BE WHERE OUR**

NEEDS ARE? **Psa.139:7-12-** “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? 8) If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. 9) If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, 10) Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. 11) If I say, “Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night,” 12) Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You.”

4. **ONLY GOD has the complete competency to meet our needs. Eph.3:20-21-** “Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, 21) to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”
5. **WE’VE ALL LEARNED WE CAN’T TRUST THE INCOMPETENT, haven’t we? BUT NOW WE REALLY NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE CAN TRUST GOD, BECAUSE HE IS PROFICIENT, QUALIFIED AND EFFECTIVE!**

C. **Because of His CONSISTENCY.** (God has been there to help His people, even before you and I came on the scene! Because He is the same and never fails, WE can trust Him to be there for US!) **Heb.13:8-** “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

1. **Noah trusted God** when it started to rain. **Gen. 6.**
2. **Abraham trusted God** when told to leave his home. **Gen.12:1-3; Heb.11:8-10, 16-** “By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9) By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; 10) for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 16) But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.”
3. **Moses, on the banks of the Red Sea, trusted God. Exod.14:15-16-** “Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward. 16) “As for you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, and the sons of Israel shall go through the midst of the sea on dry land.”
4. **Joshua trusted God** at the battle of Jericho. **Josh. 6**
5. **Gideon trusted God** when, with only 300 men he stood to battle the hosts of Midian... **Judg. 7**
6. **David trusted God** when he went before the Giant of the Philistines, Goliath of Gath. **1 Sam. 17:45-46**
7. **Daniel trusted God** in the lion's den. **Dan. 6:22**
8. God has been the strength of every man who has put their trust in Him. He promised. Heb. 13:5. He has never let anyone down. **Heb.13:5-** “Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,””
9. **YOU CAN’T TRUST (DEPEND UPON) THE INCONSISTENT... BUT YOU CAN TRUST GOD.**

D. **Because of His COMPASSION.** God cares...

1. Jesus came to earth to reveal the Father. (What we can see in Jesus we can see in the Father). **Jno.14:7-11-** “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.” 8) Philip said[^] to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9) Jesus said[^] to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10) “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11) “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.”

2. "When Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was *moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick*" -**Matt.14:14**. He was showing that He cared. God cares for the distressed.
3. When Jesus taught us the parable of the Prodigal Son He told us of a compassionate Father (**Luke 15:20**- "*So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.*") and He was telling us about God. God cares when one is away in sin.
4. Friends, we can't question God's compassion when we consider that He gave His Son to die for US. **John 3:16**
5. *YOU CAN'T TRUST THE UNCOMPASSIONATE ... **BUT YOU CAN TRUST GOD...***

CONCLUSION:

- I. I want to ask you now, "Whom are you allowing to push your swing?" It doesn't *have* to be a stranger.
You ARE THE ONE WHO makes the choice...
- II. If you will place your trust in God and give Him control in your life, then when your ship is being tossed by the storms of life, you can HAVE PEACE, **BECAUSE YOU CAN KNOW THAT HE IS RELIABLE**. You can find **CONFIDENCE**, and **ASSURANCE**, and **RELIANCE** in Him. You can know in your heart that by trusting Him, you will KNOW HIS SAFETY!
- III. From the Old Testament, hear the words of David. **Psa.18:1-6**- "*I love You, O LORD, my strength.*" 2) *The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.* 3) *I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.* 4) *The cords of death encompassed me, And the torrents of ungodliness terrified me.* 5) *The cords of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me.* 6) *In my distress I called upon the LORD, And cried to my God for help; He heard my voice out of His temple, And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.*"
- IV. And now, from the New Testament, hear the words of the Apostle Paul. **2 Tim. 1:8-12**- "*Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, 9) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, 10) but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 11) for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle and a teacher. 12) For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.*"
- V. *If you ever intend to give God control of your problems, won't you trust Him now by obeying the gospel???*