



Grace Hill Church

They go to him so badly, they go to him so weakly, they go to him so impurely, but they go to him, and he responds. Just go to him. It doesn't matter the quality of your faith. If you just go it's faith. You're not saved by the quality of your faith; you're saved because he died for you. Don't you see? Jesus says, "The one who comes to me I will in no wise cast out." It's not the purity of your heart. It's not the perfection of your faith. Just go to him. Even saying the bad things, even with bad motives, even complaining, even grumbling, go to him, and he will respond. (Tim Keller)...

By these words Christ censures all irregular ways of endeavoring to extricate ourselves from difficulties. Such irregular methods argue lack of faith. They are acts of irreverence, like that of the disciples disturbing Christ in His slumber. If the times are such that we can neither row nor sail in the vessel of the Church, we must wait patiently in the ship till He arises and calms the storm. Then the words apply: "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength" (Isa. 30:15); and, "Their strength is to sit still" (ibid., ver. 7); and "Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord" (Exod. 14:13). (Wordsworth, as quoted in The Preacher's Homiletical Commentary.)

It was the love of God in Christ that led Charles Wesley to write his famous hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." Charles had joined his brother John on a mission to Georgia in the colonies of America. The trip had been a disappointment in nearly every respect. As the Wesleys sailed home to England in the fall of 1736, both of them disillusioned by the sufferings of ministry, they were caught in a frightening storm out on the Atlantic Ocean. When it appeared that all would be lost, Charles did not pray for deliverance, but for the faith to trust in God and to encourage the other passengers on board. The sea grew calm, the ship was saved, and many people gave their lives to Jesus Christ. Afterwards, Wesley wrote:

Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high;
Hide me, O my Savior, hide
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last!

Phil Ryken, *Luke*.

August 24, 2014

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Lord's Prayer

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen*

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

Giving Worship to God: Offering

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. We have a goal of twenty percent of gifts going to local and global mission, including Samaritan Health Clinic, Justice Matters, Young Life, and church planting in N. American and Asia.)

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Luke 8.22-25*

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they set out, 23 and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. 24 And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. 25 He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Using Faith

1. *Our Storms and the Question*
2. *Understanding the Question*
3. *Answering and Applying the Question*

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Prayer

Our Father, Jesus rebukes the wind and the waves but he also rebukes us for our lack of faith. And he is right. We often misplace our faith. We fail to use the faith we have. We put our trust elsewhere. To our own harm, our faith does not play the role you intend in our painful storms and our everyday lives. Forgive us.

But Jesus' rebuke is a call to hope. He tells us faith in him is present and available. He has given us this storm-changing resource and he wants us to use it. Just as he chose to go to the cross for us, he will gladly be woken from slumber to save us. But He longs for the maturity, the faithfulness and worship in us that we would use our faith as a daily weapon to further His saving intention for us and His world.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry,
and he led them through the deep as through a desert.

10 So he saved them from the hand of the foe
and redeemed them from the power of the enemy. Psalm 106.9-10

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

On the fourth Sunday of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second Sunday, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

**Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Heb 13.20-21)

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to you yourself and the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.



Grace Hill seeks to live by and testify to the grace and truth of Jesus Christ (John 1.14-18). We are affiliated with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, a Presbyterian denomination with a rich history of living in Christ's grace and truth.

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