

Sermon Notes by Pastor Jamie Tonge



If He says go - then go

Mark: 4:35 - 41

Life is a journey that we all must take.

The boat sails, the train departs, the plane flies, and the car leaves the driveway. Our choice is not shall I go, but who's transport shall I take?

Doing it My Way.

Paddling your own canoe is not the best option, yet many people seem to choose this mode of transport through life, usually because they have been so hurt that they don't trust other people, or they like to be in control of everything.

However when the storms of life get rough, then they become overwhelmed and there's no-one to help when the boat sinks.

Every year people turn up at Brighton pier to attempt to win a prize of £1,000. To win they must under their own power fly one thousand yards. There are all manner of types and designs, but one thing is common to them all, they all end up very wet, needless to say no-one has won the prize, but I understand that they have a lot of fun doing it.

Life is far too important to try and do a DIY lifestyle. It is hard, lonely, dangerous and bound to fail.

There is a way that seems right to a man but the end of it is death

Follow the crowd.

There are those who have the philosophy that if there are enough people doing it, or believe it to be true, then it must be so - the crowd mentality.

There is a small desert rat called the lemming which teaches us the lesson that the crowd is not always right. They will follow one another to certain death.

The perceived wisdom of the world may look good and seem right, but that is no guarantee that it is so. The crowd is not always right.

Broad is the road that leads to destruction.

The New Thing.

The world we live in is looking for a spiritual answer to meet an inner need. They are looking for God in their own way. G. K. Chesterton said 'when we stop believing in God, we do not believe in nothing, we believe in anything'.

It is called New Age, but there is nothing new about it. It's just the old rubbish repackaged.

The devil has no way of creating anything new; as only God has the power to create (man has been given the creative gift as we are made in his image).

Yet many seek health, wealth, peace, contentment and happiness in these so called “new ways”.

Jesus said ‘I am the way the truth and the life no man comes to the father but by me’

The Pleasure Thing.

Many have decided that hedonism is the right way to go, living life to enjoy and indulge all their senses to the full.

Yet we do not understand that this does not meet the need in our life. There is no fulfilment in living this way.

We were not made for licence, but for freedom. The freedom to give to others instead of taking for ourselves.

The Bible teaches us that we are to meet each others needs, not just our own. **Phil: 2:4**

We were made for this.

If I seek only for myself, then I defraud others

The God Thing.

In every one of our lives, there are some things that are common to all of us.

We will set out. There is nothing we can do to stop it.

We don’t know what the future holds.

We will face trials and hardships.

We will all reach the same destination (it’s the onward destination that’s different).

With these things in mind let’s look at the account of crossing the sea found in **Mark: 4:35**

When we look at trusting Christ as our Saviour and ask Him to direct our life, then there are some things we need to know.

➤ **Jesus said let’s cross now.**

Some times we don’t understand why, but we must acknowledge that He knows what is best, whether it is guidance from the Bible or the Holy Spirit. When He says go, we go.

➤ **Leaving the crowd.**

The crowd is fickle and it’s mood changes. God’s word stands true and sure. To go God’s way is to leave the crowd behind.

➤ **Take Jesus - just as He is.**

He does not change. His ways are sure. He will not change to accommodate the whims of the day. He comes just as He is. What He gives - the world longs for.

➤ **Because Jesus is in the boat, there is no guarantee that there will be no storms.**

Jesus in the boat in the storm, is the best place to be.

➤ **Jesus is comfortable being in your life,**

He knows all about you and still wants to be with you.

➤ **Jesus in the boat is enough for you to speak to the storms.**

Notice what He says to the disciples ‘You of little faith’. Now you may think He would say ‘good job I was here for you, you did the right thing waking me up’?

He wanted them to rely on their faith in Him to be able to face the storm. It is Christ in you the hope of glory. **Colossians: 1:27**

The wind and the waves obey Him. They will not sink your boat before you reach the other side.

Andrew and Sarah have come 40 years.

Kevin and Jenny are moving to the next part of God's will for their lives.

We are all on that journey, Abbie with her eyes, Allan with his back, Peter's testimony are all part of that journey. It is Christ in the boat that matters, not just what is happening.

Only being in Christ can enable us to cope in the life we live.