

Bay City Wesleyan Church  
November 12, 2017

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Sunday Morning 11-12-2017

Our Challenge for 2017 is to regularly ask Jesus, "Am I following you?"  
When was the last time you asked?

<http://bible.com/events/311387>

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Mark 4:35-41 NIV

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

<http://bible.com/111/mrk.4.35-41.NIV>

Psalms 46:1-11 NIV

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

<http://bible.com/111/psa.46.1-11.NIV>

[Image]

Following Jesus helps us to deal with changes and transitions in life  
[http://d1o2alq72zlh8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1509242729541\\_152x152.jpg](http://d1o2alq72zlh8.cloudfront.net/5722009-1509242729541_152x152.jpg)

I've been listening to conversations in our church family and in our community. People are asking questions.

"How can we deal with this?"

Life is filled with changes, losses, and transitions. They happen to all of us. They are inevitable and inescapable. Some changes bring life, like a gentle spring rain. Others feel as devastating as a hurricane or tornado. Either way, we want to deal with what you're dealing with.

THE JOLT is that moment you realize your life has changed and no matter how badly you want to get back to "normal" you never will. You are facing a new normal.

When THE JOLT strikes you, Jesus and his people are the comforters you need to deal with it.

GRIEF comes on the heels of THE JOLT. It often comes in waves of hopelessness, confusion, anger, sorrow, and guilt.

When you want to find Jesus, hang out with brokenhearted people.

Psalm 10:1 NIV

Why, Lord , do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

<https://psalm.bible/psalm-10-1>

Psalm 13:1-2 NIV

How long, Lord ? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?

<http://bible.com/111/psa.13.1-2.NIV>

Psalm 22:1-2 NIV

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.

<http://bible.com/111/psa.22.1-2.NIV>

1. Does the Lord know what he's doing? Does he know what's happening here?

"Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

(from Mark 4:35-41)

2. Can I trust Jesus to take care of me?

2 Corinthians 11:23-25 NLT

Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea.

<http://bible.com/116/2co.11.23-25.NLT>

3. Is Jesus able to get me through this?

Let's listen in on Habakkuk's conversation with the Lord.

Hab. 1:2-3 NIV

How long, Lord , must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at

injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.  
<http://bible.com/111/hab.1.2-3.NIV>

Hab. 1:5-6 NIV

"Look at the nations and watch— and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own.  
<http://bible.com/111/hab.1.5-6.NIV>

Hab. 1:12-13 NIV

Lord , are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, you will never die. You, Lord , have appointed them to execute judgment; you, my Rock, have ordained them to punish. Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?  
<http://bible.com/111/hab.1.12-13.NIV>

Hab. 2:1 NIV

I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint.  
<http://bible.com/111/hab.2.1.NIV>

Hab. 2:12 NIV

"Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and establishes a town by injustice!  
<http://bible.com/111/hab.2.12.NIV>

Hab. 2:14 NIV

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.  
<http://bible.com/111/hab.2.14.NIV>

Hab. 2:20 NIV

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.  
<http://bible.com/111/hab.2.20.NIV>

Hab. 3:2 NIV

Lord , I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord . Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.  
<http://bible.com/111/hab.3.2.NIV>

Hab. 3:17-19 NIV

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord , I will be joyful in God my Savior. The Sovereign Lord is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to

tread on the heights. For the director of music. On my stringed instruments.

<http://bible.com/111/hab.3.17-19.NIV>

The more jarring THE JOLT and the greater THE GRIEF, the more brutal THE BATTLE for your trust in Jesus will be.

Sermon in a Sentence:

You can trust Jesus completely, even when your world feels like it's falling apart around you.

A New Way of Looking at Things:

You and I tend to measure Jesus' presence in our lives by how comfortable we feel. The higher your comfort and security levels the more confident you are of his presence. But Jesus is with you all the time. He will never leave you.

The real question is whether or not you will trust him when you feel uncomfortable and insecure. Amazingly, the best way to reinforce your faith in Jesus is to talk openly about your questions with him.

First Steps Toward Talking to Jesus Openly About Your Questions:

- + Tell Jesus what you think is unfair or painful.
- + Rely on Jesus' nature.
- + Declare his promises.