

*“God’s Vision for Your Life”*

Text: Mark 6:45-52

The disciples wondered: “Rabbi, who sinned that this man was born blind?” Jesus answered them: “It was not that this man sinned or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.” (John 9:2-3) Our text for today is another instance of the disciples in awe of Jesus, because they like many others had taken a very literal view of the feeding of the 5,000.

At this point, having the benefit of hindsight, it is easy for us to question of the disciples: “What were they thinking?” In both the healing of the blind man and the walking on water, we see Jesus for who he really is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. In fact, St. Matthew in his account of this miracle records the reaction of the disciples after Jesus climbed into the boat: “And those in the boat worshiped him saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’” (Matthew 14:33)

As we look at this story for our lives today, can we say anything others than what the disciples said? Like the story of the blind man we have a quick analysis of our situation. Because we are human and possess a sinful nature, our vision is limited. We may be devastated by events in our lives or the events of the people that our close to us. We wonder why God would allow this to happen, we wonder where he is in our lives and the lives of his children. Like with the blind man and showing his control over nature, God shows us that he cares for us in his way and his time through his Son our Savior Jesus Christ and then we can see-

## **GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR LIFE**

**I. God's foreknowledge is beyond our understanding**

**II. God's purposes are only visible through faith**

### **I.**

**A.1.** At our recently completed Central Illinois Convention, one of our presenters made an interesting comment. He said that it would be interesting to see the crosses that God either sends or allows to come into our lives for the growth of our faith and our relationship to him.

The foreknowledge of God is something to behold, it is way beyond our ability to understand. We accept it as something that God alone can do and it is best left in his hands. I remember making comment years ago in Bible class. I was a new pastor and I made the comment: "No of us has the luxury of knowing when we will die." A retired pastor in the class told me, "Excuse me Pastor, but that would be no luxury!" Of course that's true. We would either be horrified about it or maybe worse, some people might grab all they could up until that time!

The disciples were sent into the storm by Jesus. He sent them away, it was about 3 A.M. and their boat was in the midst of a storm. Their fear was not the storm, but in seeing Jesus walking on the water. They thought he was a ghost, and we would say today that they "freaked out."

**2.** We too face fearful situations in our lives. It can be that of the world, our country, our state or even our own personal situation. It was said of Walter Cronkite who died last weekend that he brought "Certainty to an uncertain world." That is how life is for us today.

Recently we have prayed for two young people with cancer-Emily Janssen and Jacob Summers. We are startled when dread diseases attack young people and we have all kinds of questions that run through our minds. These are but two instances and there is any number of others either personally or congregationally.

**B.1.** The questions we ask are such things as: Where is God in all of this? Does God really care? Verse 48 of our text is one of the strangest in the New Testament if not the entire Bible. It says: “And he saw that they were making headway painfully, for the wind was against them. And about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass them by,”

“Really!” We are tempted to say. Why would Jesus do that? Remember the Syrophenician woman? (Mark 7:24-30) She is the woman with the daughter who had an unclean spirit. She sought Jesus and he sent her away, but when he saw her faith, he granted her request. It was a test of faith and we have them today as well.

**2.** One of the more noted tests came to the Apostle Paul. It was his “thorn in the flesh.” We don’t know what that was, but he considered it a hindrance to his work. St. Paul said that he pleaded with the Lord three times to remove it. God answer was: “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (II Corinthians 12:8-9) St. Paul understood that God worked his good even in difficulties that wouldn’t go away and we can too.

## **II.**

**A.1.** Thomas A. Dorsey was a noted Jazz pianist of his day in the early 1900’s. He later turned to gospel music and is considered the father of gospel music. It was a hot summer night in Chicago when he headed for a conference in St. Louis. He regretfully left his young wife who was soon to deliver their first child. In St. Louis, he received a telegram with news that his wife had died as a result of giving birth. When he arrived back in Chicago, he received the news that the son born to them had also died. In response, although he had suffered great loss, he penned the words of our sermon hymn.

A hymn that has been the favorite of many came out of great tragedy because it caused Thomas Dorsey to look

to the only hope and confidence he had in the face of great loss. The appearance of Jesus brought great fear to the disciples that night or morning. What he said to them, he says to you as well: “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” There are reasons for this:

- Jesus is the creator of the world
- Jesus is the Word become flesh
- Jesus is the image of the invisible God

2. He shows that in the greatest way through his death and resurrection for us. That shows Jesus to be who he really is and it is his greatest work. The disciples were in wonder at him and we are in wonder at what he can do and has done for us, it goes beyond our understanding why God would allow this. It is his great love that has accomplished this for us.

**B.1.** As Jesus got into the boat the wind ceased. As Lord of all creation he can do that. The book of Job answers this question as well. If God has created this world and keeps it, can he not also provide for our every need a well? The answer is a resounding “Yes”. After God’s answer to St. Paul he knew that whatever happened in his life, God would provide for him He could say: “When I am weak, then I am strong.” (II Corinthians 12:10)

We are not in control, but God is. There is a certain pride of our day that wants God to explain his actions to us. Sometimes he does and other times he doesn’t. What he does do is call us to trust in his providing through all that we face. Great tragedies can turn into blessings by God’s hand.

2. Christ’s death on the cross may have seemed as the greatest of all injustice, but it accomplished the salvation of the world. His followers went to the tomb on Easter in dismay that his body was no longer present. They were robbed of this last kindness to show their Lord and Master.

There was good news he had risen from the dead. Now, if he accomplished that what does that say about difficulties and trials that we face today? St. Paul has a good answer for us: “And we know that for that love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

We talk about vision from time to time. We want to have one for this congregation and are presently studying what is important in the life of Trinity. A vision gives focus and seeks purpose for our lives. The greatest vision for our lives is the one God possesses and has made certain for you in the life of your Savior Jesus Christ. You don't know your future, but God does. The good news for you is that it is sealed and certain in your Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.