

1. Troubles are often the tools by which God fosters us for better things - Beecher

INTRODUCTION: After the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus sent the disciples away-WHY? I may not know. But I know some lessons they learned.

2. Troubles are silver arrows shot from the bow of God

1. They learned their helplessness.

2. They learned the weakness of their faith. "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Matt. 14:31

3. They learned that on the stormy sea of life, there are troubles. LET US LOOK AT THESE TROUBLES:

1. REAL TROUBLES

1. The storm was a very real trouble to these men.
2. Disease comes...our bodies are racked with pain.
3. Fire...sometimes destroys both life and property.
4. Death...destroys the body but cannot destroy the soul. Matthew 10:28

2. IMAGINARY TROUBLES

I have had many troubles in my life but the worst of them never come back.

1. They saw Jesus coming but they thought he was a ghost. At his first appearance may have been as a dark moving speck upon the water, then as a human figure. They did not dream that it could be Jesus. THEY WERE AFRAID:

- (1) Fear is a source of doubt.
- (2) Fear is the greatest enemy of faith.

2. In the storm they were looking for death...they were looking for the worst. SO DO WE

3. SATANIC TROUBLES

1. These troubles that are of Satan...always work in and through the minds of men.

(1) Peter listened to Satan: "Don't you know Peter that man cannot walk on water." Peter began to sink.

(2) Eve listened to Satan...doubted in her mind.

(3) The greatest danger in the world is doubt!

1. you need not carry a lightning rod to attract them -

4. TROUBLES ARE SURE TO COME. THEY COME TO ALL. THEN WHY BE A CHRISTIAN? WHY TRUST IN CHRIST?

1. Not promised security from troubles

2. Promised security in troubles. Deut. 33:27-2 Cor. 12:

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