



The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. Luke 8:24 (NLT)

Have you ever been to a place in your marriage, a relationship, or circumstance in your life where you thought you were going to drown? Like you are all by yourself in the middle of an ocean that is 30,000 feet deep with raging waves, flailing your arms and legs, barely able to stay afloat, never really knowing if you are going to make it and grasping for anything that might help you stay afloat.

Many times circumstances in life invariably lead us to the point the disciples were in, where every breath feels like it is our last, before we drown and start sinking lifelessly to the bottom. Unfortunately, experiencing the storms of life is the one and only time some seek the Lord. We find ourselves thrashing and drowning in the water because we decided not to be with Jesus in the boat. Our poor rash choices of not following Him or His word are equivalent to doing a cannonball off the boat in a diving competition. Though a cannonball might be gratifying in the moment, the Bible teaches that sin is only pleasurable for a season, and we search our hearts to realize that our own cannonball has caused our tears and pain.

Whether we did a cannonball ourselves, a loved one kicked us out of the boat (aka divorce), or we slipped and fell out by accident, Jesus is saying, "Be calm. You know how to tread water. Quit freaking out. I saw all this happen yesterday just like Peter when the rooster crowed three times, and he denied Me. Trust Me even though you can't see through the pain. I see the future and am in control of your circumstances. Trust Me, I said. I have new plans now - plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer 29:11)

As you regain your balance in the water Jesus says, "Grab my hand," and He pulls you back into the boat where you belong. Sopping wet, you look like a wet rat from your circumstances. With your head down, He whispers a few secrets in your ear, secrets meant only for you. He then tells you He loves you and says something profound: "Dive into my heart."

Suddenly you hit dry land; you look around, and the Son is shining on your face. The storm stopped; all is calm. You look at your finger and you have the most beautiful signet ring on you have ever seen. You realize you are clothed with the robe of His love as you step onto the solid ground of New Beginnings. You have a new zest for life, a love for Christ, and some secrets you don't fully understand.

Shawn Spitzer



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