

June 14, 2020. Whose Battle Is It, Really?
Part 2 in the series “Follow”

What do you remember from the message?

What were some things that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

READ: Mark 4:35–41

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?” When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Silence! Be still!” Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” The disciples were absolutely terrified. “Who is this man?” they asked each other. “Even the wind and waves obey him!”

What stands out to you most about this event?

In this situation, what did Jesus have control over? What did he apparently *not* have control over? [A: *The disciples fear and anxiety*]

If God is all powerful, why doesn’t he take command over our fear, worry, anxiety and other feelings, beliefs, and actions?

READ Isaiah 26:3

“You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!”

Why does God want to keep us continually in his perfect peace?

Is it easier for you to feel and express love and concern for others when you are filled with worry and anxiety, or when you are filled with peace, hope, and joy?

READ Luke 6:27–37

But to you who are willing to listen, I say, love your enemies! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who hurt you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, offer the other cheek also. If someone demands your coat, offer your shirt also. Give to anyone who asks; and when things are taken away from you, don’t try to get them back. Do to others as you would like them to do to you.

“If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return.

“Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn others, or it will all come back against you. Forgive others, and you will be forgiven.”

What is the primary reason for hate in the world today?

Think about what person or group of people it is most difficult for you to love right now. What would need to happen inside of you for you to begin to love them?

How is it possible to suffer horrific abuse and injustice and still love the person or group of people you suffered so much at the hands of?

Jesus seemed to imply that when people do cruel and hateful things, they actually don't fully realize what they are doing. (“Father forgive them, they don't know what they're doing.”) Is this perspective helpful in extending mercy and forgiveness to others?

In the above verse, (Luke 6:27-37) what is the most significant reason we should love others?

Why is loving our enemies the one and only hope for the world?

READ: Romans 16:20

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.”

What is the significance of this verse?

[One answer: the battle is ultimately the Lords, and he will ultimately be victorious.]