

When I Am Not Willing 1 Corinthians 9:17

After today we, you and I, will have completed a Trilogy we started 30 days ago
-with 'Disciples in a Boat' and part 2, two weeks ago with 'The Steps Down to Submission'

Part 1-Disciples in a Boat, Mark 6:45-56

- The gist of part 1 is this:
- After the feeding of the 5,000 men plus W & C, the multitudes wanted to make Jesus, 'King-Soopers',
- the disciples were basking in the limelight of this glorious day, but Jesus moved quickly, with urgency
- He commanded them to get into a boat and row across to Bethsaida near Capernaum.
- They do so in the evening while it is light out
- Jesus goes inland a little on a mountain plateau to pray while they are rowing across, east to west
- They are rowing in darkness against a very strong head wind coming out of the Mediterranean Sea
- When He is finished, He comes to the shore as if observing His disciples rowing across the sea
- They have been rowing in the against winds of opposition since evening
- After 3 AM in the fullness of God's time, Jesus comes walking on the water,
- and He desired to pass them by
- We studied this phrase 'passing by' and it was God's way of revealing Himself to His servants
- At Mt. Sinai the Lord "passed by" Moses in order to reveal His name and His compassion,
- Moses wanted to see His face, BUT no one can see His face and live
- To Elijah He revealed His 'voice' to him while Elijah had covered his face with his mantle
- The audible voice of God was revealed to Him, not just the Word of the Lord thru dreams or visions
- But His face no one can see and live

-BUT In Job we read these very prophetic verses which parallel our Mark 6 incident.

Job 9:8 & 11

v.8 He [God] alone stretches out the heavens

and 'treads on the waves of the sea' (LXX is similar to Mark's: 'walks on the waves of the sea').

vs. 9 & 10 are parenthetical, but about the Creator LORD ...

v.11 when he passes by me, I do not see that it is Him (The Disciples thought Him to be a phantom);

when he goes by, I cannot understand Him (And the Disciples did not understand Him either according to v. 52).

- But when Jesus "passes by" the disciples on the lake He intends (unlike in the OT with Moses and Job and Elijah) to make the mysterious and enigmatic God of Job and Moses physically visible as He had not been and could not have been to former generations.

In **Mark 6:49-50** we read this:

49 And when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it was a ghost (*better phantom*), **and cried out;**

50 for they all saw Him (*wasn't just one hallucinating*) **and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I AM; ~~do not~~ stop being afraid."**

- The I AM in bodily form then gets into the boat (after doing the wave dance with Peter), the winds cease and they immediately are at the shore of Gennesaret, 8 miles south of Bethsaida, which was their intended destination

-Vs. 51- 52 were key for the Disciples and us.

v.51 Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled. Matthew adds here: **Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."**

v.52 For (prior to this) they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened (or blinded).

-Yes I AM more than a prophet who multiplies food for thousands, I am the I AM manifest in the flesh
-And you did not get it when I multiplied the loaves, so I will pass you by and reveal to you that I AM manifest in the flesh

-We are blind at times as the disciples were, but to their credit, they rowed for over 9 hours against very strong head winds.

-We never read of a complaint, nor of a desire to turn around into the easy wind of the world

-They never get out of the boat unless commanded to do so as Peter was

-Staying in the boat is the safest place to be, contrary to the world or our flesh!

-We are to row in the world but not be of it ...

-Jesus comes at their weakest, least efficient time and says in effect I am the I AM, and I am what and all you need to get to the other side.

-They arrive after being up all night and immediately ministry begins to others in Gennesaret, the Garden of the Prince.

-And truly He, the I AM, brought forth much fruit there!

-So we saw how submitted these men were in the Boat, submission under extreme duress

-we read of no complaints,

-and the gospels are not remiss to express their complaints at other times

-Here we see submission before the cross, before the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,

-before the preparatory teachings of the Upper Room Discourse in John 13-16.

-Then we looked in part 2 of our Trilogy at the twelve steps down to our places of submission to God

-under men and women whom God has placed over us

In Part 2 we saw the-Steps Down to Submission, Ephesians 5:1-21

-The gist of part 2 is this:

-The First step is always be Imitators of God in all facets of our life, BUT especially in forgiveness....

-Genuine Imitators as loving children of God

-We looked at replacing the Dark Names in our life with this everyday name: 'Thankful'!

-Just call me thankful, because that is what I AM

-We looked at the dangers of being deceived by our own flesh and by those who call themselves Brother or sister

-Yet some would lure us out of the boat and into the easy winds of the world, but it ends in Dark Walking

-The fruit of true submission requires a heart soil that is morally good, righteous in standing and daily living and established in truth not deception

-Otherwise the fruit of the soil that is our heart will be very poor at best

-Sometimes we have to awaken from sleep mode and then walk circumspectly, carefully walking in wisdom with those without in this world

-To avoid repeating what lead us to fall asleep spiritually

-We talked about selling and buying daily seasons of time

-Selling some of earth's activities in order to buy time for constant spiritual growth

-And the final step is a life filled daily with the Spirit, a life that sings!

-From Imitators of God as dear children to step twelve: a life that sings!!!

-Timothy and Cathy Keller said this from their Book: 'The Meaning of Marriage':

To have a marriage that sings requires a Spirit-created ability to serve, to take yourself out of the center, to put the needs of others ahead of your own... Let the Holy Spirit bring this home to your

- heart until you love and sing and stand in wonder.... Nevertheless, at the end of the day, Christ's love is the great foundation for building a marriage that sings
- Not only a Marriage that sings, but a disciple in a tough job that sings
 - Or a citizen in a sinful country, state or city that sings
 - Or a child under His parents whether good or bad parents yet that child sings
 - A wife with a disobedient husband or an unsaved husband and that wife sings
 - A husband with a wife that has turned cold towards God and him, but this husband sings
 - There are no victims long term in the Kingdom of God, because Jesus was the Victim but now and always is the Victor.
 - A victor that sings.
 - In **Hebrews 2:12** it says this of the Victorious Son:
**"I will declare Your name to My brethren;
 In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."**
 - Victors that sing!

The question this evening as We enter Part III of our Trilogy is this:

- What if the hard rowing and those downward steps, are against my will and I am just not willing?
- What if I am unwilling to keep rowing and what if some of those steps down to submission are truly needed in my life but I am not willing to take them?
- You say to yourself and no one here: There is no feeling that would fuel my feet to move forward to stay in the boat and submit to God's direct or sovereign will
- How should I react?
- What do I do?
- I am willing to be willing, but right now I am not willing
- If I do the right thing, but don't feel like it, am I a hypocrite?
- No. That would make Jesus and Paul at a minimum hypocrites!

Our Key Verse is in 1 Corinthians 9:17

v.17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

- we will not deal with the context, for this verse has universal application
- I'll let you read the whole chapter I'll let you read the entire chapter and get the context

-v.18 is important as well:

v. 18 What is my reward then?

- and we pause there, at this question: **What is my reward then?**
- Paul's answer may not be yours, probably isn't yours

-What is my reward then? Is an important consideration

- What do I get for staying in the boat, rowing hard, looking for my Gennesaret, the Garden of the Prince
- For taking the steps down to submission?
- Some of them are hard, but they are right

-The disciples thru Peter as spokesman in **Matthew 19:27-29** asked a similar question of Jesus

27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"

- in other words: What will be our reward?
- Jesus gives a two part answer:

28 So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the *future regeneration of the earth*, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

-That is very specific to the twelve (excluding Judas, who was replaced)

-For us in the regeneration we will rule and reign with Him in the K.A. per Rev. 20:6

-But what about right now?

-In this life, here on earth, as His child, His Disciple,

v.29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold (*Luke here adds: in this present time*), and inherit eternal life.

-if I lose or give up one unit of whatever He will give me ‘in this present life’ a hundred units, whatever they will be.

-We’ll let Him choose what the ‘hundred fold’ will be.. is that right?

-Why? because He is a good, good Father.

(Show the picture of the Bridge ...)

-The Bible and this church, including myself, is full of believers and servants who are sometimes unwilling to cross that bridge.

-Some of you have been unwilling for a long time

-How do we change our minds? Our will?

-The Holy Spirit will take us to Defcon I, then Defcon II, and if needed Defcon III

Defcon I looks like this

-recall the two sons that Jesus spoke of in ...

Matthew 21:28-31

28 “But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go, work today in my vineyard.’

29 He answered and said, ‘I will not,’ but afterward (*later on*) he regretted (*careful thoughts together with ‘care for’*) it and went.

30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go.

31 Which of the two did the will of his father?”

They said to Him, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

32 For (*this Jesus’s point to the Jewish leaders*) John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent (*same word as in v.29*) and believe him.

Defcon II Looks Like this

Jeremiah 20:7-9 Jeremiah could only keep silent so long ...

7 O LORD, You induced or enticed me, and I was persuaded (*same word as induced or enticed*);

-they became of the same mind ...

You are stronger than I, and have prevailed (*you have ‘out endured’ me*).

But here is what happened to him on a nearly daily basis

I am in derision or mockery daily;

Everyone mocks me.

8 For when I spoke, I cried out;

I shouted, "Violence and plunder!"
Because the word of the LORD was made to me
A reproach and a derision daily ... by his constant mockers.

So here is what Jeremiah did to alleviate the mocking, the rejection, and any personal pain

9 Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him,
Nor speak anymore in His name."
But His word was in my heart like a burning fire
Shut up in my bones;
I was weary of holding it back,
And I could not.

-Like the first son something was working in him and causing him to change his mind and there were accompanying feelings of regret with it!

Defcon III is for the toughest cases

-Some of us like Jonah take a long time to change their mind and in his case with a lot of external persuasion

-We see that being Jonah is just plain miserable!

Jonah 1:1

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me."

3 But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD

-‘presence of the LORD’ means the place where God had spoken to him,

-thinking that if he could get as far away as possible that place where the presence of the Lord was

-and Jonah figured that the Lord would not follow him to any unclean places

-Surely God would not go to unclean places, so I will flee to unclean Tarshish

-A man of Great pride, great resistance requires greater measures!

-we summarize vs. 1:4-17:.... the LORD sent out a great wind ... in a great sea .. and He prepared a great fish ... and then men of the ship cast Jonah overboard at Jonah's insistence

-Let's pick it up in 2:6, after he orders the men of the boat to throw him overboard

2:6 I went down to the moorings of the mountains;

The earth with its bars closed behind me forever;

Yet You have brought up my life from the pit,

O LORD, my God.

7 "When my soul fainted within me,

I remembered the LORD;

And my prayer went up to You,

Into Your holy temple.

8 "Those who regard worthless idols

Forsake their own Mercy.

9 But I will sacrifice to You

With the voice of thanksgiving;

I will pay what I have vowed.

Salvation is of the LORD."

10 So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

3:1 Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying,

-If the Lord was thinking out loud he might have said... "Now where did we leave off Jonah"

2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you."

3 So Jonah arose and went (*over the bridge*) to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD.

-We may give out the Word of the Lord but do we represent His heart?

-Jonah did as He was told as a bear minimalist would

-He walked the breadth of the city, a three-day journey

-and **Then he cried out and said, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"**

Did he have God's heart to go with the short and abrupt words?

-4:1 says ...**But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry.**

2 So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country?

Therefore, I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, one who relents from doing harm.

3 Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!"

4 Then the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

-God will use His words spoken from the wrong heart

-Will there be a reward?

-No

-Moses struck the Rock in anger

-Water was provided but no reward for Moses, in fact he experienced 'loss of what he could have gained'

-How can I experience a change of mind with regret, without experiencing Jonah

-I would rather be the first son

-Or even Jeremiah

-But I do not want to go thru what Jonah did to cross that bridge

#1 Develop the Woe is Me Syndrome

1 Corinthians 9:16 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity or pressure is laid upon me; yes, woe (*usually associated with God's judgment*) is me if I do not preach the gospel!

-The woe feeling becomes greater than any feeling or rational that you might have

-Preaching the gospel was not an option for Paul, it was like breathing, he had to do it

-Why would I self-pronounce woe on myself?

-Is that not contrary to Grace?

-No it is not!

-Those who understand grace the most will be good with the 'Woe is Me Syndrome'

-The H.S. thru Paul said this in **1 Corinthians 11:32-33**

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

-If we grasp Grace we will have no problem judging ourselves, have a Woe Syndrome!

-Look at your responsibilities under Christ and under whomever you are called to submit to just as necessary as breathing

-Feel the pressure to breathe? Feel the pressure to fulfill your responsibilities

-That pressure you feel is the gentle hand of the Lord pressing ever so gently upon you

-Look at that hand- Do you see the scars in it?

#2 Understand that 'Entrustment' Was Already 'Entrusted' to You

1 Corinthians 9:17 For if I do this willingly or voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted or in good faith this has already been committed to me ~~with~~ a stewardship (a household responsibility).

- This entrustment is not new to you
- What you are balking at doing, what you are unwilling to do has been in your bag of responsibilities for some time
- He is not asking you to cross the bridge into an unknown dark area that you have never experienced before
- Where you are saying I don't know about this; I don't have an experienced faith in this area, therefore I don't want to ...
- The word 'entrusted' is from *pisteuo*, from the basic Greek for faith.
- It is in the perfect tense which signifies that this trust was placed in the past and continues to this day
- You have already in the past been found faithful, recall that and walk across the bridge and fulfill your responsibility, shoot your feelings in the head!
- How did this 'entrusting' come to be?
- Paul tells us how this happens in **1 Timothy 1:12-14**

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry (*diakonia*, which emphasizes what you do),

13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with or following grace, my faith and my love which are in the person of Christ Jesus.

- God enabled him or empowered him to fulfill his calling and when his enabling was executed in his service he was found faithful.
- And being found faithful he was entrusted with a stewardship of responsibilities

#3 Understand that Stewardship comes with Matching Enablement

1 Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, why do I thank Him?because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

- On this Stewardship or responsibility, what was it?
- Col. 1:25** of which I became a minister (*diakinos*) according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

#4 Don't Stop in the Middle of the Bridge and Look Back at Defeat

- Let Paul be our great example
- 1 Timothy 1:13-14** although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

- When we dwell on past failures, we stop and look back and feel very inadequate
- We often claim the title of Victim
- Victims of our past, victim of others from our past or present
- We sometime relish that unlike Mayweather we are 0-50 when it comes to victim hood.
- We often admit to the 'formerlies' of our life, but forget the facts as dictated by God:
- 1-Formerly: 'a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man'
- 2-But I obtained mercy (a withholding of just judgment)
- 3-Why? Because in God's estimation (not your own) I did what I did in ignorance

4-And in time under mercy and in ignorance His grace came into his life thru faith in Christ and it was 'exceedingly abundant'

-If you are tempted to stop and look back on the bridge, memorize these verses and I guarantee the Holy Spirit will bring them to your mind as you once again start put on your victim garments

-And you will turn by faith and love and cross the bridge to fulfill your responsibilities

#5 How Do I Prevent Unwillingness?

-Firmly grasped that He the Father wants only good for you

-For now and long term

-Knowing that will push you to do the tough work

-What is the tough work?

-Luke 9:23

23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

-Tough labor, tough work brings great rest that follows

-Heb. 4:11 – Let us be diligent or labor to enter into 'that' rest

-the other side of the bridge is our work our labor as we do it unto the Lord we enter into His rest.

In What areas of your life do you find yourself unwilling?

1-Are you unwilling to forgive?

2-Are you unwilling to read and study the Word that you might know and not be ignorant?

3-Are you unwilling to put faith before feelings

4-Are you unwilling to serve where needed in your local body and be counted over time faithful?

5-Are you unwilling to keep rowing and do you want to get out of the boat?

6-Are you unwilling to take the steps to put yourself in a place of God's ordained submission?

7-This is not pleasing to me at this moment

8-Loss may occur, I have to sell something to buy the right kind of time

What do we do?

(show one at a time)

#1 Develop the Woe is Me Syndrome

-So That God does not take us to Defcon I, II, or III

#2 Understand that 'Entrustment' Was Already 'Entrusted' to You

-We are not crossing a bridge unto unknown responsibilities

#3 Understand that Stewardship comes with Matching Enablement

-Where God has led He enables, He equips by Holy Spirit and thru the ministries of the church

#4 Don't Stop in the Middle of the Bridge and Look Back at Defeat

-Perhaps the other side of the bridge is not new to you, but past failures are keeping you from going forward

#5 How Do I Prevent Unwillingness?

-Knowing and believing His way is the best.

-Our labors in Him bring rest

Trilogy Summary

1-Disciples in a Boat

-Stay in the boat and row to His shore

-It is the safest and best place and brings about the greatest revelations

2-The Steps Down to Submission

-Lead to a God imitating life of Spirit filled Singing

and ...

3-When I am not Willing

I now have the tools to push myself over the Bridge to fulfill my responsibilities

1Corinthians 9:17

For if I do this willingly >>>>>>>> I have a reward.

..I have already been entrusted..

**BUT if
against
my will..**



**.. with a
stewardship**