



sermon notes

"One Doubt to Set Aside"

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Pastor Tony Arnold

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Storms of Stress → **Storms of Doubt** → Storms of Failure

Doubt Storms: *"Turbulent days when the enemy is too big, the task is too great, the future too bleak, and the answers too few."*

Max Lucado

WHAT JOHN THE BAPTIST CAN TEACH US ABOUT DOUBT

DOUBT EMERGES FROM _____

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

Matthew 11:2-3 (NIV)

ENGAGING YOUR DOUBT _____

Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

Matthew 11:4-6 (NIV)

"Doubt is the skeleton in the closet of faith and I know no better way to treat a skeleton than to bring it into the open and expose it for what it is: not something to hide or fear, but a hard structure on which living tissue may grow."

Philip Yancey

YOUR DOUBT ISN'T _____

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Matthew 11:11 (NIV)

HOW CAN WE FACE DOUBT OVER STORMY WATERS?

The second most stressful day of Jesus' life:

- Jesus hears his cousin and friend, John the Baptist, has been killed by Herod (Matthew 14:12).
- The disciples return from their ministry tour, excited with all that God had done through them (Mark 6:30).
- Jesus calls them to a quiet place, but the crowds follow them, resulting in the feeding of the five thousand (Mark 6:31-44).

- The people want to forcibly make Jesus their king (John 6:15).

1. START _____ BEFORE THE STORMS TOUCH DOWN

Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

Matthew 14:22-23 (NLT)

2. TRUST THAT NO STORM CAN _____ FROM JESUS

Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!"

Matthew 14:24-27 (NLT)

3. DON'T LEAVE YOUR _____ BEHIND IN THE BOAT

Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?"

Matthew 14:28-31 (NLT)

4. _____ THROUGH YOUR DOUBT

When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

Matthew 14:32-33 (NLT)

5. _____

When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

Matthew 14:34-36 (NIV)

IN A WORLD OF DOUBTS...

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NLT)

**BUILD UP YOUR FAITH AROUND YOUR DOUBTS
FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS AND GOD'S UNENDING LOVE**

Answer key

DOUBT EMERGES FROM YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES

ENGAGING YOUR DOUBT BUILDS UP YOUR FAITH

YOUR DOUBT ISN'T A MORAL FAILING

1. **START PRAYING BEFORE THE STORMS TOUCH DOWN**
2. **TRUST THAT NO STORM CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM JESUS**
3. **DON'T LEAVE YOUR COMMUNITY BEHIND IN THE BOAT**
4. **WORSHIP THROUGH YOUR DOUBT**
5. **KEEP BEING THE CHURCH**