

## Stay in the Boat with Jesus

**W**atching people battle the storms of life has been heavy on my heart. But the Bible shows us we can find peace and hope during these storms. In one well-known event in the life of Jesus, He was in a boat with his disciples and calmed a storm with the words, "Peace, be still."

You can read about it in Matthew 8, Mark 4 and Luke 8. In Mark 4:36 we read, "When they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship." There are times we need to leave the crowd behind, walk away from conversations, stay off social media, eat alone rather than in the lunchroom. There are times we need to be with Jesus and hear from Him. Not all chatter is healthy or helpful.

When the storm came up the disciples woke Jesus and said, "Lord, save us; we perish" (Matthew 8:25). They had a normal human reaction: help, protect us. Jesus calmed the storm and then He addressed the real issue, an uncomfortable issue: fear. "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" (verse 26). Whatever storm you are in, God's biggest concern is growing your faith bigger than your fear. It would be great if your storm were immediately calmed. But our comfort is not God's greatest concern. Our greatest need is to trust Him completely, 100 per cent, with all we have, all we are, all we hope to be.

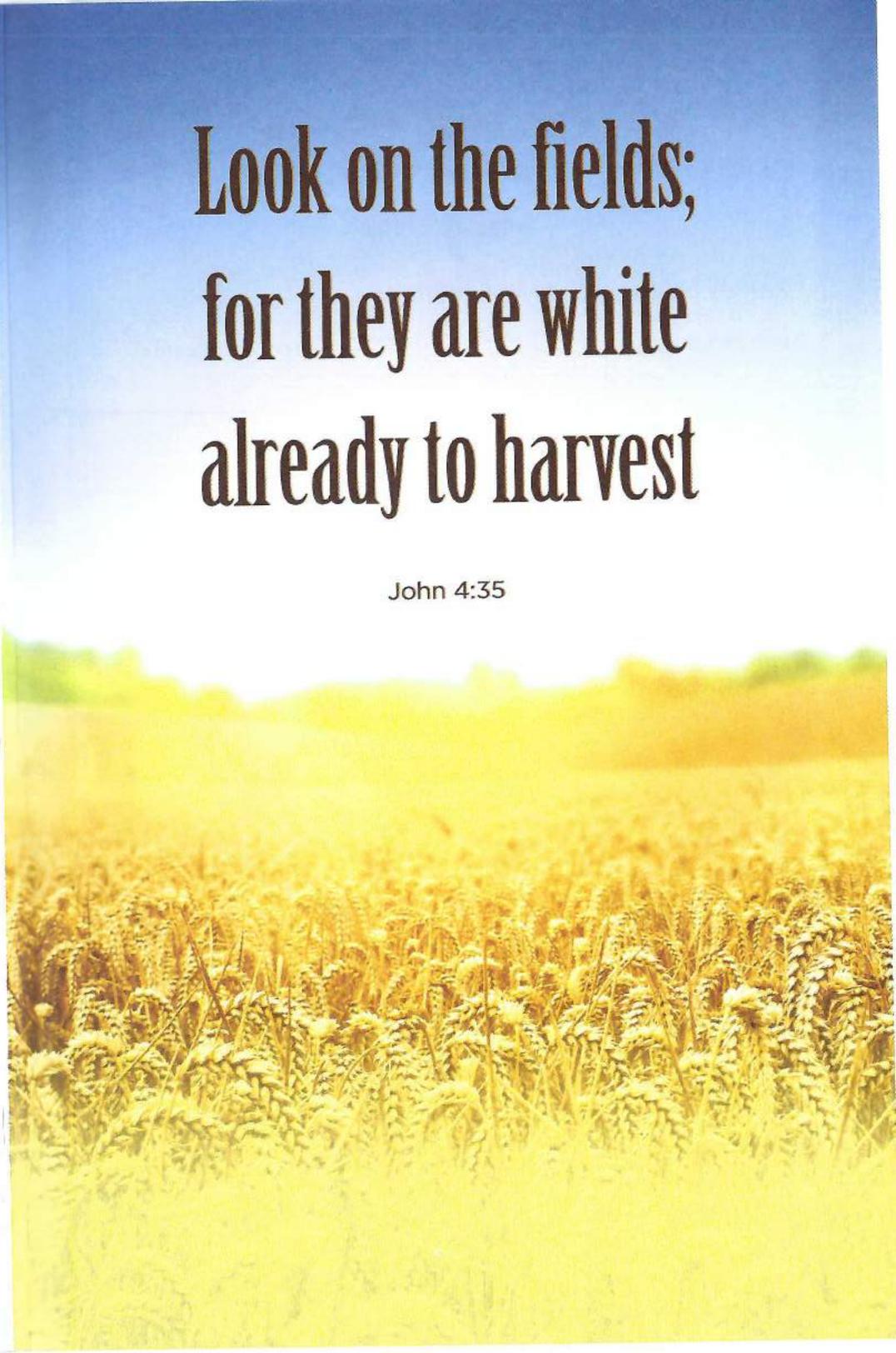
During storms, the key is to stay in the boat with Jesus. Storms will come, Jesus will stay. Will you try to make things happen on your own? Will you get bitter, angry, impatient, discouraged? Will you turn to cheap imitations that never satisfy? Or will you stay in the boat with Jesus? You can have peace and rest while winds are howling and storms are roaring when you stay in the boat with Him. Obey Him always, unconditionally. Stay close to Him. Do not allow anyone or anything to draw you away. If you stay in the boat with Jesus, you will come out of the storm stronger, and those around you will be blessed.

*Adapted from a column by Jon Hauser  
The Forum, Fargo, ND (used by permission)*

Look on the fields;  
for they are white  
already to harvest

John 4:35

Wheat field ©Solar Seven, courtesy Shutterstock • Printed in USA



# Covenant Church

3115 N.W. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

August 22, 2021

**Call to Worship** *Responsive Reading*

**Invocation**

*Pastor Don Mauldin*

**Sing Unto the Lord**

Hymn # 572 Blessed Assurance

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Recognition of Guests**

**Mission Moment**

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Worship in Song**

Hymn #571 Trust and Obey

**Offertory Prayer**

**Offertory**

*Rose Morgan*

**Sermon**

*Pastor Don Mauldin*

**Hymn of Benediction**

#819 The Doxology

***Don't forget to Shine, Shine, Shine!***

## ***Covenant News***

*Ask Ron about our new hearing enhancements.*

*Don't miss a word of the sermon!*

Covenant's ministry for August is the Food4Kids Backpack Program.

*We will also be collecting paper goods and toiletries for PineGrove Retirement Apartments.*

**Covenant provided 12,000 meals through the Bread of the Mighty Food bank in July.**

### **ADAM'S RIB**

In Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, 'Johnny what is the matter?' Little Johnny responded, 'I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife

Don's phone number is 352-262-5349 if you need him.