



GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME
IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM

Remember when the disciples were in a boat with Jesus, crossing the Sea of Galilee? The Sea of Galilee is a lot like the sea of life—violent storms sometimes arise without warning. We often go through life thinking that the sailing is smooth and all of a sudden there is a furious storm—the sudden and unexpected death of a spouse, your car breaks down and there is no money for repairs, a marriage breaks up, etc. When there is nothing else we can do and no one else to help, we cry out in fear to Jesus.

On one particular night on the Sea of Galilee, after healing hundreds of people, Jesus had settled in for a necessary nap. After Jesus was asleep, the skies suddenly darkened, the winds wailed and the waves swept over the boat. As the boat filled with water and anxiety gripped the disciples, they cried out in fear, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” Jesus awoke and replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Did the disciples still not understand that the same God, who with just a few words created the universe could certainly calm the winds and the waters! Then Jesus, with just a few words, rebuked the winds and the waves and graciously calmed the storm.

If the disciples had practiced **generous living**, perhaps they would have prayed in faith to the God who

enabled Jesus to sleep, rather than robbing the Savior of his much needed slumber. But fear, the enemy of generosity, kept the focus of the disciples on protecting themselves. Like the disciples, we cannot be self-sacrificing or God-trusting when we are self-absorbed. We can’t give generously or cheerfully when we are consumed with fear about not having enough to meet our own obligations and needs.

God asks all of us the same question, “Do you trust me?” To trust Him financially, means to allow Him to guide us as we commit our resources to participating in His missions for the world. Trusting God means that we surrender everything to Him. It means changing our idea of who owns the things we acquire.

Interestingly, the statement that Jesus spoke more than any other was, “**Fear not.**” He invites us to make the choice to **live without fear, give without fear and enjoy the generous life.** After all, as Christians, our past is forgiven, our future is assured, and we have His power for the present. With the past, present and future covered, what is there to **fear**? It is **all of us in response to all of Him.**

--Adapted from a Generous Living Team Worship given by Gary D. Moyer, Executive Secretary, Carolina Conference of Seventh-day Adventist



JANUARY

TELL YOUR STORY

You are part of the Carolina Conference Generous Living Team and we want to hear from you. If you have a testimony where God has been especially faithful to you or your family, please share it with us at rroberts@carolinasda.org or write to us at:

Generous Living Team
PO Box 44270
Charlotte, NC 28215-0043

Your testimony could be crucial in someone's life through our videos, posters, offertory readings or bulletin inserts.

Thank you for your continuous prayers.

“For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11