

# Three Cheers From Jesus

"Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."

(Acts 27:25, KJV)

The first cheer is recorded in Matthew 9:2. I address it, the cheer of forgiveness. The good news of the gospel brings cheers and sunshine to the dejected and depressed souls. It is the grace of upliftment to the guilt-burden souls. The promise of 1 John 1:9 is the antidote of cheers for the defeated souls.

A remarkable story of forgiveness is found in Mark. Remember the helpers of faith of a cripple man in Mark 2:3-5. The four stretcher bearers were mercy, love, grace and faithfulness. These four attributes of God make Him approachable and empathy with the weakness of men (Heb 4:15).

The second cheer is recorded in Mark 6:50. I address it, the good cheer of companionship. Jesus says to his disciples who are close to sinking on Lake Galilee: "Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid." In the Greek Lexicon, "be a good cheer" is written in the Greek imperative tense. It is a forceful decree. It simply means, to take up courage. To face it boldly. In this context, it is to stand firm in the faith in the face of a stormy adversity.

The width of this lake was about 6 miles wide. The disciples were 3 miles from the shore. The storm clouds would have blocked out any moonlight. Yet, Jesus saw through the darkness and understood the struggles of their situation. Sometimes, the good cheer comes in the darkest hour of our crisis. You may be helpless and lonely, but you are not alone in your struggles. Jesus is there to rescue you.

The third cheer we find recorded in John 6:33. I addressed it the good cheer of victory.

Jesus knew the following day the trauma of His death would temporarily dash their faith and shatter their hope into a million pieces. But He would overcome death in the resurrection and by His overcoming they too would survive the crises and in the end become better rather than bitter.

God cheer and good comfort are two sides of the same coin. If you could refer to Matthew 9:22, "Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole." The same word, which is translated "be of good cheer" in the second verse, is translated "be of good comfort" in the twenty-second verse. Isn't that interesting? Can you imagine how uncomfortable she must have felt? She tried to hide from the crowd because of the shame of her uncleanness. Jesus first assured her by calling her "daughter". Be at rest and in peace for thy redeemer is a friendly Saviour.