

Following Jesus Through The Storm

Mk. 4:35-41 (cf. Mt. 8:19-27; Luke 8:22-25)

Jesus spent the day teaching the multitude by the Sea of Galilee (vs. 1-2). He taught them several lessons using parables (vs. 33-35).

At the end of this day Jesus calls His disciples with Him to pass over to the other side of Galilee.

A great storm blows in (v. 37). Matthew 8:24 calls the storm a “*tempest*.” The word “*tempest*” is translated from the Greek word “*seismos*.” Our word “*seismology*” is from this word—the study of earthquakes. This was a powerful storm.

Life is full of storms—Physical storms (health, financial, relational) and spiritual storms. Spiritual storms are more difficult than physical storms. Physical storms can often be prepared for through forewarning. Spiritual storms come with no warning, leaving no time to prepare.

➡ Four things that will help you get through whatever storm you face:

I. Recognize the **PURPOSE** of Jesus.

- The disciples were doing exactly what Jesus told them to do (v. 35). Being in the will of God, does not exempt you from storms.
 - Jesus KNEW the storm would come. He could have prevented it. Storms are not an accident, but there is a purpose in the storm.
 - They weren't the only ones in the storm (v. 36b)—You're not the only one who experiences storms.
- A. The **CONTEXT** of the storm—Jesus just concluded teaching a series of parables illustrating the importance and power of the Word of God.
1. The Sower who sowed seed—The seed is the Word of God.
 2. The Candlestick (v. 21)—A type of the light of God's Word.
 3. The Mustard seed (vs. 30-32). A type of faith that comes by the Word of God.



- B. The TEST of the storm. After a teacher finishes teaching a lesson, he usually gives his class a TEST to see if they learned the lesson.
1. It was as though Jesus was saying to His disciples, "Put away your books; clear your desks... It's time for a test."
 2. Jesus gave His Word they were going to the other side.
 - He didn't say it would be easy. He didn't say there would be no storm.
 - He didn't say, "Let's go out into the middle of the lake and drown!" He said, "*Let us pass over unto the other side.*"

II. Remember the PROMISES of Jesus (v. 35).

- ➡ When Jesus said, "*Let us pass over unto the other side,*" it was a guarantee they would arrive on the other side. It was as good as done! Nothing could stop Jesus' statement from being fulfilled.
 - ➡ God's promises are no less certain in the storm than they are in the sunshine. The promises of God are no less true when you're sick than when you're well.
- A. Numbers 23:19 ! *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*
- ➡ If Jesus said an elephant was going to lay a egg in front of our church on Bethel Road today, you don't need to doubt it. You just need to go to the kitchen and get a frying pan and some butter to prepare to have breakfast! If Jesus said it, it will come to pass.
- B. The sun will stop shining... the stars will stop twinkling... the earth will stop spinning before one promise of Jesus will ever fail to come to pass. 1 Kings 8:56 assures us "*...there hath not failed one word of all his good promise...*"
- ➡ He didn't keep the storm from striking the boat, but He kept the storm from sinking the boat. Jesus didn't promise smooth sailing, but He did promise a safe landing.

III. Rest in the PRESENCE of Jesus.

A. Jesus is RESTING in the storm (v. 38).

1. Storms don't upset Jesus like they do me! How could He sleep in the storm? There was nothing for Him to worry about. He said they were going to the other side, so He took a nap knowing they would make it.



2. The ship was FULL of water (v. 37). When a ship is full of water, it supposed to sink! But this boat didn't sink! This ship was better than the "unsinkable" Titanic! There was not enough water in all the Sea of Galilee to sink this ship! Why? Because Jesus said they were going to the other side!

B. We need to resting in Him. With Jesus "on board" in your life, your ship ain't gonna sink!

1. Zephaniah 3:17— *"The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love..."* NOTE: The context of Zephaniah is the sufferings of Israel during the tribulation period.
2. What is God doing while the Jews are suffering persecution in the Tribulation? He is resting. Is it because He doesn't care?
 - He is resting because He knows He is mighty and He will save them. No need to panic!
 - Why was Jesus sleeping? Because He knew they were going to make it to the other side!
 - *"WE perish..."* What do you mean *"We?"* Jesus is not going to perish! You can't sink Him in water—He walks on it!

IV. Rely on the POWER of Jesus.

➡ Winds didn't wake Him... Tossing of the boat didn't wake Him... Water in the boat didn't wake Him. But when the disciples cried, *"MASTER!"* — *"And HE AROSE"* (v. 39)!

A. He REBUKES the wind ! The word *"rebuked"* is the same word when Jesus *rebuked* the unclean spirit to come out of the child brought to Jesus by his father in Mark 9:25.

- The Bible mentions Jesus rebuking eleven times. In all but one of those references Jesus is rebuking some Satanic force (cf. Mt. 8:26; 17:18; Mk. 1:25; 4:39; 8:33; 9:25; Luke 4:35, 39; 8:24; 9:42; 9:55). Therefore, I believe this storm was satanic in its origin—An attempt of Satan to destroy the Lord.
- We've learned from the book of Job that Satan can cause disturbances in the weather.

B. He RESTRAINS the sea, "*Peace be still*"—"Sit down and shut up!"

According to *Strong's Concordance*, the phrase "*peace be still*" literally means to be "muzzled." Jesus can put a "muzzle" on whatever is trying to bite you.

1. He rebuked the wind and waves, "*Peace be still.*" And the wind and waves said, "Yes sir!" "And there was a great calm."
2. The emphasis is on the power of the Word of God. Christ spoke His Word and it was done. You can trust His Word!

➡ The disciples DID NOT say, "Wow! What a storm! What huge waves and powerful wind!" They said, "*What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*" WHAT A GOD we have! He's bigger than any storm I will ever face. If the wind and sea obey Him, SO SHOULD I!

SUMMATION: Mark 5:1—"And they came over unto the other side of the sea!" God brought them through!

➡ v. 40—"Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith..." "Didn't I tell you we would pass over to the other side?"

WE'RE GOING TO THE OTHER SIDE. You may get laid off tomorrow... You may get sick tomorrow... Wall Street may crash tomorrow... Terrorists may attack... But we're going to make it to the other side!

If you are in a storm right now, don't panic—You're NOT IN a storm—You're going THROUGH a storm. He'll get you through to the other side.

It is only by putting your trust in what God said in His Word that will get you to "the other side" of the grave and into heaven.