

“The Storms of Life and Jesus”

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Jesus and His disciples found themselves in the middle of a terrible storm out on the Sea of Galilee. This wasn't unusual since the Sea of Galilee is in a basin 700 feet below sea level surrounded by mountains and notorious for furious storms. To the North is beautiful Mount Hermon, 9,200 foot peak, which is capped with snow, and sometimes the cold air from the top of Hermon rushes down the mountain and blows across the lake.

The force of the cold air meeting the hot moist air around Galilee can be explosive, as it was on the day in our story. Jesus and His friends are in the middle of the lake when the squall hit. It's terrifying and it looks as though they won't survive the storm. What happens next is something for which no one is prepared.

There are some obvious and simple lessons from this story that apply to us. The first is: **Storms will come**. Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 4:12, *“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.”* There are many who think that as long as Jesus is with them there shouldn't be any storms!

They don't understand, and question God. They ask, “Isn't He supposed to watch out for His own? Doesn't He protect those He loves? How can this be happening to me?” I'm sure those are the questions which were marching through the heads of the disciples. Hebrews 6:19 reminds us, *“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain.”*

Some of you today have a storm raging in your life. It might be financial, health, or swamped in the sea of relationships. You've tried to be good but you feel like you're sinking, and you want to know the same thing the disciples asked in verse 38, *“But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”*

The one thing we need to remember is that **Jesus is with us in the storm**. If you're going to be in a storm, the one person you want your boat is Jesus! Jesus could have stayed on the shore and let them take all the chances by themselves, but He didn't do that then and He doesn't do that now! He's always with us no matter what!

Always remember, **Jesus will calm the storm**. At the perfect time during the perfect storm He exercises His power over the storms of life. God's never in a hurry, and the reason He's never in a hurry is because He knows exactly what to do at exactly the right time. He doesn't go by our time. At just the right time, not the right time as far as the disciples were concerned, but just at the right time, Jesus stood up and calmed the storm.

Don't worry, God has you in mind. He knows and understands you and your situation. He cares for you, and His timing is perfect. Romans 5:6 says, *“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”* Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:12, *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer.”*

It's only in the storm that we truly understand who Jesus is. Open to verses 39-41, *“And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”* Throughout Mark’s Gospel the disciples, as well as others, keep coming to new understandings of who Jesus is, and it’s always in the context of some crisis.

This is true for us as well. We keep meeting Jesus in new ways as we meet Him in new crises. We don’t really understand who He is or the power He has until we see Him in action in our lives!

As we look at this story and we realize how Jesus has blessed us each day, there’s some qualities we need to realize about Him:

He controls everything. From Henry Ford, *“I believe God is managing affairs and He doesn’t need advice from me. With God in charge, I believe everything will work out for the best in the end. So what is there to worry about!”* When Jesus speaks, creation listens!

He holds everything in place. Have you looked up at the night sky lately? Even though the universe is humongous, God knows where everything is. He even knows the hairs on our heads!

He has infinite power. Listen to 2 Corinthians 12:9, *“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”* There is nothing that He can’t do!

He cares about you and your life. Listen to 1 Peter 5:6-7, *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”*

Even if you seem to go from storm to storm in life, If you place your complete faith and trust in Jesus, you’ll have a greater understanding of Him, a deeper relationship with Him, and a new love for Him when the storm is over. You’ll see His power over the darkness of sin and the depth of His love for you. His love was so deep, He was willing to give His life for you that you might live forever! Jesus is telling you to not fear, but live by faith!