

Subject: *Jesus is Lord of the Storm*

Scripture: *John 6:15-21*

The Gospel of John tells us about 8 miracles Jesus did. They are called “signs” because they are miracles with a message.

- ✓ Jesus is Lord of our disappointments – He turned the water into wine (Jn. 2)
- ✓ Jesus is Lord over distance – He healed the nobleman’s son (Jn. 4)
- ✓ Jesus is over disability and disease – He healed the helpless man at the pool (Jn. 5)
- ✓ Jesus is Lord of our desires – He fed the multitude with a miraculous meal (Jn. 6)

This miracle takes place on the Sea of Galilee. Actually four separate miracles took place that night: Jesus walked on the water; He enabled Peter to walk on the water; He calmed the storm; and He brought the ship immediately to its destination.

One of three things is true of you today: either you have been in a storm or you are in a storm or you are going to go through a storm. Life is full of storms. You could face a storm involving your health, a storm involving your finances, or a storm involving your family or your marriage. Everybody is going to go through storms. ***Job 14:1*** *Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.* This story reminds us that Jesus will not forget you or forsake you in the storms of life, but He will bring you through.

Before we can understand the full impact of this miracle, I want to fill in some details of the story from the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. Many of our Sunday School classes are using the Answers curriculum and there was a recent lesson about the four Gospels and how they relate to each other.

Matthew 14:22-33

- 1) Jesus sent His disciples in the boat to go across to the other side, but He knew the storm was coming. The storms of life never take Him by surprise.
- 2) The storm arose when the boat was in the middle of the sea (about 3-4 miles from the shore). The Sea of Galilee is about 700 feet below sea level with steep hills surrounding it. Violent storms can rise suddenly. They didn’t have the Weather Channel to warn them of coming storms. Vs. 18 “arose” means the storm came suddenly and unexpectedly. That’s how the storms of life come...without warning.
- 3) The storm took place in the fourth watch of the night (between 3:00-6:00 a.m.). This was dark and it was dangerous being on the water in the storm.
- 4) Peter asked Jesus, “Lord, if it’s you, command me to walk to you on the water.
- 5) Jesus stretched out His hand and rescued Peter when he began to sink
- 6) When Jesus and Peter both got into the boat, the storm immediately stopped.

Mark 6:45-52

- 1) Jesus strongly urged (KJV “constrained”) His disciples to get into the boat and cross to the other side.
- 2) Jesus saw them struggling to row the boat. While Jesus was on the mountain praying, He saw them, even through the darkness. In other words, Jesus saw them long before they saw Him. The darkness cannot hide us from His sight. ***Psalms 139:12*** *Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.*

- 3) Jesus came alongside the boat and the disciples thought He was a ghost or an imaginary figure. They thought it was only their imagination because nobody can walk on water, right?
- 4) When Jesus came aboard the boat, they were amazed and marveled because they didn't grasp the meaning of the miracle that had just taken place (feeding the multitude) and because their heart was hardened. That means they couldn't perceive what Jesus had done. How many miracles would it take to convince them? And we are the same way. Jesus shows us time after time that He is able to do anything, and still don't seem to get it.

We never like it when the storms of life come, but there are blessings in the storm. Someone said, "A smooth sea never made a skillful sailor." The storm is a time to look, a time to lean, and a time to learn. There are several things we can learn about the Lord of the storm:

1. WE LEARN ABOUT THE LORD'S PROVIDENCE

Jesus knew the storm was coming. Just remember when you're in a storm that wherever God leads you, His grace will keep you.

2. WE LEARN ABOUT THE LORD'S PROTECTION

The disciples were not protected from the storm, but they were protected in the storm. Just because you love the Lord and obey Him doesn't mean you get to escape the storms of life.

3. WE LEARN ABOUT THE LORD'S PRESENCE

The disciples couldn't see Jesus, but He saw them. Even though they were in the middle of the sea, He was not far away. Jesus will not forget you or forsake you in the storms of life.

*Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.*

*That soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.*

4. WE LEARN ABOUT THE LORD'S POWER

Jesus has power over all creation (over the law of gravity and over the winds and the sea). He has power over all things and situations. The disciples learned that the waves that threatened to be over their heads was under His feet. He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. Jesus can bring peace into every storm. Sometimes He calms the storm, and sometimes the storm still rages, but He calms our heart in the storm. **John 14:27** *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

5. WE LEARN ABOUT THE LORD'S PURPOSE

The Lord has a purpose in every storm. He reveals Himself to us in the storm. He causes us to know Him and trust Him in the storm. This is the purpose of all His miracles:

John 20:30-31 *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*