



## Weathering the Storm: Through the Power of Jesus Christ!

### Text: Matt: 8:23-27 (NIV)

*<sup>23</sup> Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. <sup>25</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" <sup>26</sup> He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. <sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"*

### Matt: 8:23-27 (KJV)

*<sup>23</sup> And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. <sup>25</sup> And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. <sup>26</sup> And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!*

### Thoughts from the text:

We have read these scriptures many times and normally we focus on Jesus calming the sea and questioning the faith of those on the boat. By no means nothing wrong with those being focal points because they show the power of Jesus and how fickle and forgetful man can be in a time of crisis; but I would like to focus on the storm (v24).

#### I. Webster provides three definitions of a storm:

1. *a violent disturbance of the atmosphere with strong winds and usually rain, thunder, lightning, or snow. (noun)*
  2. *an uproar or controversy. (noun)*
  3. *move angrily or forcefully in a specified direction (verb)*
- Most would agree when the word *storm* is mentioned we immediately think of a negative action or result, but I submit to you that a storm can be viewed as a positive action or result.
  - We understand a physical storm usually leaves damage to houses, cars, businesses and even people, which is a terrible outcome because the storm is out of your control. The loss of what one worked hard to gain and maintain for years is hard. But while the storm is

happening, what's really going through your mind? Is it the business or the Blesser, the car or the Creator, the stuff or the Savior?

- Like the disciples in the boat, a shift in the mind can immediately occur upon the arrival of the storm. They had just watched Jesus teach and heal (Matt 5, 6, and 7). How soon they forgot who was among them!
- Not everyone will experience a physical storm but all Christians will experience spiritual storms. A spiritual storm may have similar characteristics of a physical storm (dark clouds, rain, no sunshine) but you may have to endure a spiritual storm longer.
- There is no guarantee that the storm will immediately disappear particularly under testing for the glory of God (see Job), under chastisement (see David's sin - 2 Samuel 12:11 - 14 but note it was not unto death!), or even under our own sinful choices (see Abram and Sarai, Genesis 15 - 17). Sarai's discontentment with not bearing a child AFTER the promise led her to give Hagar to Abram causing a "storm" in her life resulting in even more discontentment and jealousy. Hagar's "storm" was not her own but the Lord sustained her through her mistreatment.

But how we walk through the storm is key to Christian life and living.

## II. Lessons We Can Learn from a Storm:

### a. Genuine Thankfulness

*Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our "God is a consuming fire." (Heb 12:28-29)*

- The phrase, "I am so thankful" has become a cliché with everyone; but until you have truly been through a storm, it will always be a cliché.
- Jesus Christ did not come to this earth to live, die and be raised for a cliché.

### b. Genuine Joy

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds. (Jam 1:2)*

- If joy is of the Lord, why do we let the world take it away?
- Could it be we never separated ourselves from the way of the world?

### c. True Treasures

*But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; (Matt 6:20)*

- Many have acquired much (and there is nothing wrong with that), but at what cost.
- Just like the rich ruler, some will be in that category because they forsake the true treasure, Jesus Christ.

### d. Real Faith

*Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. (Jam 1:3)*

- The word faith appears in the bible between 300 – 500 hundred times (depending on the Bible version). *Faith* appears so many times in scripture because it is the centerpiece of our Christianity.
  - First, without faith it truly is impossible to please God.
  - Second, it allows us to let Jesus Christ reign in our lives.
    - Send me Lord (Is 6:8)
    - Potter and Clay (Jer 18:1-5)
    - Let Your will be done (Lk 22:42)

#### **e. Authentic Peace**

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. (Jn 14:27)*

- This peace is one of no conflict, fight, struggle or scuffles if you have confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
- This peace is not for sale -- it is priceless!

### **III. How do you weather the storm?**

#### **1. Be Patient**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philip 4:6)*

- One of the greatest tools we have in a storm is being patient. A storm can change direction, speed or path in a moments notice and so can our lives. Being patient can help us adjust without causing any additional situations.

#### **2. Worship**

*I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. (Ps 34:1-3)*

- If we only worship and praise God when things are good and lack worship during the storm, what message are we sending to our Father? It is as if we are saying, "You are only important to me when I am getting what I want."
- A worshipper is what you have to become. The mindset of a worshiper says, "Whether the Lord does or does not say 'yes' to my request, I will worship Him at all times."
- Giving God praise is more important to me than getting what I want.

### 3. Trust God

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding (Prov 3:5)*

*Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act (Ps 37:5)*

- For Christians, trusting is one of the hardest things we struggle with. We know what God's word says and what His promises are...but still.
- Trust is one of the key elements in a relationship.
- As people we must develop and/or demonstrate this characteristic. But God from the beginning of time is trust-worthy. He has no sin nature. What He says is what He says. He is not a man that He should lie (Num 23:18) and He is the way, the truth and the life (Jn 14:6).
- So many times, we have put our trust in people and have gotten hurt but we forget they are people. There is One God, One Lord, One Creator and Savior. The only One you can trust whole-heartedly, through the storm.

### 4. Pray

*But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matt 6:6)*

*And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. (1Jn 5:14)*

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. (Jam 5:16)*

- The simplest but most powerful thing we can do is pray.
- Prayer is just talking to the Father. He understands all languages.
- As Christians this must be one of our go-to weapons.
- Every man or woman of God in the Bible had a serious prayer life and this is because they were sinful.
- It is amazing how less crazy your life is when you develop your prayer life!
- People with a prayer life do not have time for foolishness, drama and conflict.
- Why? Because they are praying about foolishness, drama and conflict.
- Praying does calm the storm if you enter into it.

#### **Prayer Warriors:**

- o Jesus (Lord's prayer; Matthew 6:5-15)
- o Shadrach, Mesach, and Abednego (would not bow down to no other God; Daniel 3:17-18))
- o Jehoshaphat (Moabites, Ammonites, and Meunites coming against for battle; 2 Chronicles 20:1-24)
- o Paul (Spiritual power; Ephesians 3:14-21)
- o Moses (Israel in the wilderness; Exodus 32:9-14)
- o David (Sins; Ps 51)

- o Hezekiah's (Deliverance and Healing; (see his nation conquered and destroyed by the mighty Assyrian army)2 Kings 19:14-19; 20:1-7)
- o Nehemiah's (Prayer for Success (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9)
- o Sarah (child; Genesis 21:5-7)
- o Mary (Luke 1: 46-55)
- o Naomi (begin praying for daughter-in-law; Ruth)
- o Hannah (Birth of her child and gave him back to the Lord; 1 Samuel 2:1-10)
- o Hagar (Unable to watch Ishmael die; Genesis 21:15-19)

**Final Thought:**

I believe a storm does not come to make one's life hard but helps us see things that may need some attention. If you have the right perspective and attitude, that very storm could be that elevation you need to weather any storm. Amen.