

# WITH JESUS IN THE STORM Matthew 14:22–33

*Christ is the Calm in the Center of the Storm because Jesus Saves!*

## 1. The World Needs the Truth Now More Than Ever

- a. And You are the Church—the Children of God—Shining as Lights in the World
- b. Especially Now During the Distress of a Pandemic and Social Chaos

*‘When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.’*

*(Viktor Frankle, Man’s Search for Meaning)*

## 2. We Are the Children of God—but we are not exempt from the storms of life

- a) My mom and dad just came through a storm with her Cardiac Arrest
- b) Her Heart Literally Stopped beating for 6 long minutes—EMT’s restarted her heart
- c) They think her potassium was depleted so the electrical signal stopped reaching heart
- d) Potassium is an electrolyte (sodium, magnesium) that is necessary for your body to conduct electrical signals through cells and throughout the body
- e) While dad was in the hospital parking lot one of his grandsons texted him Psalm 139
- f) We are fearfully and wonderfully made by God! And He answered our prayers!

## 3. When the Storms of Life Hit Us—and We Turn to God for Help...

- a. We come Through the Storm with a **New Appreciation for Life**
- b. A **Greater Appreciation for God** who answering our prayers
- c. AND **Deeper Appreciation for Christ** who Offers Peace in the Midst of the Storms

---

## I. THE MIRACLE

---

### A. THE PROBLEM—AND THE PRAYER (v.22-23)

#### 1. THE PROBLEM: Jesus had just fed over 5,000 people miraculously...

—But Why Does Jesus Send the Disciples away immediately?

- a) John gives us the Key—an insight to Understand what was happening...(John 6:15)
- b) The Same People Miraculously Fed by the Lord—  
—wanted to take Him by Force to make Him king!
- c) Jesus Intentionally Left That Volatile Situation to Defuse a Political Movement that Was Ready to Start and Spread Right There!

#### 2. THE PRAYER: Jesus sent the disciples away and He went to be alone with the Father in Prayer.

- a) One of the Temptations from Satan in the Wilderness was to be Given Rule Over the Kingdoms of the World—to be made a King
- b) To Have a Crown without the Cross... A Kingdom without the Suffering  
A Worldly Kingdom of Power—Rather than a Spiritual Kingdom of Love
- c) **And Jesus Met This Attempt with Prayer—  
the same way we should face temptations today**

### B. THE FEAR—AND THE REASSURANCE (v.24–27)

#### 1. THE FEAR: A Storm Hits While the Disciples are Crossing the Sea of Galilee

- a) And Like Many Storms—it is growing in intensity and velocity...  
Storms can arise quickly (Oregon coast is notorious for that)
- b) **But Some have speculated** that this storm was not just a freak of nature...
- c) But that it may have been a storm instigated supernaturally by the enemy...  
the way the Devil caused a storm to hit Job's children—killing them.
- d) The Last Time Jesus was in the boat and Rebuked the wind & waves & they stopped  
**(We just don't know → the secret things belong to God)**

## 2. **THE REASSURANCE: The Disciples are in Danger and Fear...**

**—But Jesus had been on the Mountain Praying**

- a) They Think They Are Alone—but they are not Alone!
- b) He Knew of their Peril—His Eye is on them!

(Psalm 34:15) *The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry.*

## 3. **Jesus is Walking on Water to Reassure Them and Save Them!**

### C. **THE FAITH—AND THE FAILURE (v.28-30)**

#### 1. **THE FAITH: Peter did Have Faith—and Stepped Out in Faith...**

- a) Faith to FOLLOW CHRIST... To TRUST CHRIST...
- b) Faith to ASK CHRIST if He could walk to Him on the Water—even in this storm!

#### 2. **THE FAILURE: But Even With Faith We Sometimes Fail...**

- a) Maybe Peter thought the Storm would stop when he stepped out of the boat?
- b) Maybe he thought it would be easier than he thought?
- c) Maybe He Thought His Faith Would Not Be Tested?

#### 3. **Our troubles don't all stop the moment we trust in the Lord.**

- a) Our faith will be tried.
- b) *“Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.”*

### D. **THE RESCUE—AND THE REBUKE (v.30-33)**

#### 1. **THE RESCUE: Although Peter's Faith Failed—He Called Out to Christ!**

- a) “And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him...”
- b) Like a child taking it's first steps... and a parent is there to catch them
- c) He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think!

#### 2. **THE REBUKE:**

- a) *And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”*
- b) The Purpose of a Rebuke is to Learn from it—To Grow from it  
—to become stronger—to not make the same mistake again
- c) **Jesus wants our Faith strong enough to Overcome the Storms of Life**

---

## II. THE IMPLICATIONS

---

### A. WHEN STORMS OF LIFE HIT IT DOESN'T MEAN THE LORD HAS ABANDONED YOU, OR DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOU

#### 1. **The Disciples Were Caught in a Terrible Storm—and their fear was real!**

- a) Where was the Lord?
- b) Where is God when we need Him?
- c) And Why is Jesus Walking on the Water When His Disciples Are in Danger?

#### 2. **At one time I didn't know why Jesus was walking on the water...**

##### **But Now I Know—He Wasn't just taking a Stroll**

- a) The One Who Holds All Things Together By the Word of His Power...  
Who Has All Power and Authority in Heaven and on Earth  
Was Not JUST Walking on the Water—
- b) He Was Going to Them Personally and Powerfully in the Storm to Save Them!

#### 3. **They Thought They Were Alone—Be We Are Never Alone!**

- a) He said, I Will never leave you nor forsake you...
- b) I Am with you always, even unto the end of the age
- c) (Matthew 14:26–27) *And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea...*

### B. OUR FOCUS AFFECTS OUR FAITH

#### 1. **There is No Doubt Peter Had Faith!**

##### **I Don't See Anybody Else Stepping Out of that Boat, do you?**

- a) But Peter Could Also Be Impulsive... Often He Spoke First and then Thought Second
- b) Peter Asked the Lord First... And Jesus said, 'Come'
- c) So Far So Good... Peter Steps Out of the Boat IN FAITH! & Literally Walks on Water

#### 2. **But Notice How Peter's Focus Affected His Faith (v.29-30)**

- a) But when he saw that the wind *was* boisterous, he was afraid and began to sink
- b) He Took His Eyes off Jesus — and began looking at the storm and the waves and realizing he was walking on water!

#### 3. **OUR FAITH IS AFFECTED BY OUR FOCUS**

- a) **NEWS:** If Your Focus is on the News—Your Faith will be Affected... WHY
  - (1) B/c by Nature the News is All Negative All the Time the Sky is Always Falling!
  - (2) When Everything's an outrage—nothing's an outrage
- b) **ENTERTAINMENT:** If Your Focus is on Entertainment your faith will Be Affected
- c) **SOCIAL MEDIA:** If Your Focus is Social Media your Faith Will Be Affected
- d) **OTHERS:** If your focus is always Comparing Yourself to others your faith will be affected!

#### 4. **IF Your Mind is Being Conformed to the World—then it's Not Being**

**Transformed by the Word of God and Spirit of God! > (Isaiah 26:3)**

## **C. WE MUST WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT**

### **1. THERE ARE MANY STORMS IN LIFE...**

**And We Are Not Except from the Storms of Life**

#### **a) THERE ARE HEALTH CRISIS STORMS...**

- (1) Who would've thought a virus from a city in China would cause a Pandemic that affected the whole world?

#### **b) ECONOMIC STORMS...**

- (1) Times when some loose everything—totally wiped out

#### **c) EMOTIONAL STORMS**

- (1) of Fear, Loneliness or Despair (**Psalm 42:9,11**)

#### **d) RELATIONSHIP STORMS**

- (1) Feelings are hurt, Relationships cut off, Silence, bitter cold between souls

#### **e) SPIRITUAL STORMS**

- (1) Storms of Temptation...

- (2) Storms of fear and doubt...

- (3) Paul in a Storm (But he was Given a message from the Lord not to worry...)

### **2. The Lord is a Very Present Help in Time of Trouble (Ps 46)**

- a) It Takes Faith to Be Still and Know God is in Control—Even Over the Storms of Life

#### **b) (Psalm 89:9; 107:29)**

### **3. The Reason Jesus Rebuked Peter's Weak Faith—Was Not For Him to Feel Bad About Himself—It Was to Make Peter Stronger!**

**'When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.'**

(Viktor Frankle, *Man's Search for Meaning*)

### **4. Jesus wants our Faith Strong Enough to Overcome the Storms of Life!**

- a) We Need to Step Out and Walk By Faith—Not By Sight!

- b) Even in the Middle of the Storms of Life

## **D. CHRIST IS THE CALM IN THE CENTER OF THE STORM**

### **1. There's a stretch of coast off outer banks called "Graveyard of the Atlantic"**

- a) More than 2,000 ships have sunk in these waters over the centuries.

- b) It was there that the United States Life-Saving Service was born...  
with stations every seven miles along that treacherous coast.

- c) Acts of Heroism was Normal for these men who went into sever storms to save people from drowning

- d) But Never in the history of those life-saving stations did a drowning person ever come to the door of the station and ask to be rescued.**

### **2. Christ is the Calm in the Center of the Storm because Jesus Saves!**

- a) Jesus Entered the Storm of Betrayal, Trial, Conviction and Crucifixion...

- b) so that You Would Be Saved from the Greatest Storm of All—the Judgement Day

- c) In the Garden Jesus was on the edge of the Storm... Praying intensely to the Father, even asking if the cup of suffering could pass

- d) After falling to His knees in prayer three times, He said, nevertheless not My Will but Your Will be Done
- e) And from that point forward—Jesus was the calm in the center of that storm
- f) He was mocked, spit on, whipped and beaten, but He never even defended Himself before His accusers
- g) And He willingly was Crucified to Pay our Debt in full

### **3. He Offered Himself While We Were Still Lost in Sin!**

**Not Because We Loved Him—but Because He Loved Us!**

#### **CONCLUSION:**

***Christ is the Calm in the Center of the Storm because Jesus Saves!***

#### **CHRIST OFFERS US PEACE EVEN IN THE STORMS (John 16:33)**

- e) Peace in Storms of Sorrow... Tragedy... Anxiety...
- f) Because He Gives Us Peace with God!
- g) Peace from the Greatest Storm of All—the Storm of Death and Judgement

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (Jn 16:33)