

Grace Norwalk. 2/12/2023.

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“Faith in the Storm”. Matthew 8:23-27

Have you ever experienced a storm in your life? Storms are inevitable ...

Two options: Fear or Faith throughout the storms? (Trust)

In Matt. 8:23-27

²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

Context:

Matt. 8:-4, Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy

² A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

Matt 8:5-13. The Faith of the Centurion

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

⁸ The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.

Matt 8. Jesus healed many more...

¹⁴ When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. ¹⁵ He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

¹⁶ When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.

PROPO.: A Lesson of Faith

I. Jesus sets up the _____ of the storm.

¹⁸ When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he gave orders to cross to the other side of the lake.

²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. **THIS IS WHERE THE LESSON OF FAITH BEGINS**

- V.18 Jesus **Gives the order** to go across to the other side.
- V.23 Jesus gets on the boat, and they follow HIM

II. Jesus sets the _____ to teach them a lesson thru the storm.

²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat.

The **Sea of Galilee**, called **Lake Tiberias**, is a freshwater lake in Israel. It is the lowest freshwater lake on Earth (686 ft) below sea level. It is approximately 53 km (33 mi) in circumference, about 21 km (13 mi) long, and 13 km (8.1 mi) wide.

The lake is fed partly by underground springs, but its main source is the Jordan River, which flows through it from north to south.

III. The _____ Begins. V24

The storm doesn’t take God by surprise.... But it did surprise the disciples

²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.

²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”

σεισμός. seismos : a storm/earthquake (Tsunami).

Μέγας megas : Great.

seismos megas Mega Storm / A hurricane!!!! Not what they were used to as fisher men, a God ordained storm...

IV. The _____ to the test. V.25-27

- **The disciple's reaction to the storm:**

²⁵ *The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"*

Lord save us..... σωσον (sōson). Verb Imperative Active = Rescue Us!!!!

- **Jesus responds to the disciples:**

²⁶ *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.*

oligopistos of little faith

"faith". "little in *number*, low in *quantity*",

few occurrences of *faith*. (occurs five times in the NT, each time with Jesus rebuking the problem of *failing to hear His voice* (cf. Jn 10:3,4,27).

"Little-faith" describes someone dull to hearing the Lord's voice, or disinterested in walking intimately with Him. In contrast, the goal of life is to receive (obey) the Lord's gift of faith in each scene of life (Ro 14:23; Heb 11:6).

of little faith, trusting too little: Lacking confidence (in Christ)

why are you so afraid? Deilós: refers to an excessive fear

- **They didn't understand who Jesus really was**

²⁷ *The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"*

This was a lesson of Faith for the disciples!!!

Application: what can we learn from this?

1. God will bring you at the time to the place or the situation where he chooses to test your faith.
Even if you are in the will of God, He will test you when He sees it necessary because He knows best what lessons in life you need to learn.
2. How do you feel when you are in the storm, sense it, experience it? Does it control your emotions or do you control your reactions?
3. When we realize there is nothing we can do, we become desperate, we cry out. Eventually we realize that there is nothing we can do but to trust the one who can help us in the storm.
4. The disciples were believers but had no understanding of who Jesus really was.... And they were freaking out in the storm. How would you react?
5. Storms will happen even if you are in the will of God, it still rains in life...
6. God will take you through the storm from where you are to where he needs you to be
7. What kind of faith, how much do you have?
8. When Jesus is in your life the more you get to know Him the more you learn to trust him
9. If Jesus is in your life you should be able to face the storm no matter how long or strong it is
10. Is Jesus in your boat? Who is Jesus to you?
11. Don't run away from the storms, have FAITH!! TRUST!! He will take you to the other side!!!

Conclusion:

Without rain, nothing grows

Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, is about learning how to dance in the rain

Storms don't last forever

"Every storm runs out of rain, just like every dark night turns into day."

Not all storms come to disrupt your life, some come to clear your path

Don't be afraid of the storm if Jesus is with you....