

## Stilling The Storm

**Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-5:1; Luke 8:22-26**

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**Matthew**, **Mark**, and **Luke** each give record of this particular *miracle* of **Christ**. It is **Mark** that gives the most detailed account, but it is by looking at all three accounts that we get the most detailed view of what happened.

The background of these accounts goes back to **Matthew 12** where **Jesus** displayed His healing powers, by healing **the man with the withered hand**, and as the multitudes followed **Jesus**, He healed them as well, even a **demon-possessed man**. As **Jesus** got close to the sea-side, we read in **Mark 4:1** “*and there was gathered unto Him a great multitude*” and with no place to go, **Matthew** says in his account “*And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him*” (**8:23**). **Jesus** and the **apostles** are in the ship, and we read in **Mark 4:1-2** that **Jesus** “*sat.....and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. And He taught them many things by parables*” He spoke to them the “*Parable Of The Soils*” the “*Parable Of The Lamp*” the “*Parable Of The Growing Seed*” and the “*Parable Of The Mustard Seed*” As evening began to approach, **Jesus** said to the **apostles** who were with Him in that ship, and had heard His teachings “*Let us pass over unto the other side*” (**Mark 4:35**). In **Mark 5:1** “*And they came over unto the other side*” Between those two statements is the voyage. What is recorded here is a picture of the child of God’s voyage through this earth to glory!

### I. THE EARTHLY VOYAGE

#### ① **The Voyage To The Other Side Is With Christ:**

**Jesus** said “*Let us pass over unto the other side*” He did not say “*You go over to the other side*” but “*Let us pass over unto the other side*” He did not say “*I will meet you on the other side*” but “*Let us pass over unto the other side*” **Christ** would be present with them as they made their voyage to the other side! **LIFE IS A VOYAGE, AND NO CHILD OF GOD MAKES THIS VOYAGE ALONE!** It is a voyage in the constant **company**, **protection**, and **care** of **Christ!**

#### ② **The Voyage Is With Purpose And Destination:**

When **Jesus** said “*Let us pass over unto the other side*” He no doubt had a specific **purpose** and **destination** in mind. He certainly knew everything that would happen during that voyage, and He knew everything that His **disciples** would do during that voyage, and He knew everything that He would do during that voyage. All through the voyage there was a definite and specific **destination**, and that never changed!

### ③ **The Voyage Is Not Without Storm:**

These **disciples were with Christ**, YET THEY ARE IN A STORM! These **disciples were loved and cared for by Christ**, and no doubt **they loved Christ**, YET THEY ARE IN A STORM! These **disciples had just spent some alone time with Christ (Mark 4:34)**, YET THEY ARE IN A STORM! These **disciples were actively obedient, following Christ**, YET THEY ARE IN A STORM! From this we learn that none of these things guarantee a storm-free life, nor exempts one from the storms!

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All through the Word of God, **storms** are a picture of the **trials**, the **difficulties**, the **hardships**, and the **struggles** of life. They are a picture of the **adversities** of life, of the **burdens**, the **stresses**, the **calamities**, and the **sorrows** of life. **Storms** are a picture of the **setbacks**, the **afflictions**, the **battles**, and the **obstacles** of life. For the child of God, the voyage through this life, to **“the other side”** (heaven), is one of storms, **BUT NONE OF THE STORMS ALTER OR CHANGE THE FINAL DESTINATION!**

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## II. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STORMS

### ① **The Storms Can Be Sudden And Unexpected:**

As the **disciples** and **Christ** headed out, all was smooth sailing, **BUT WITHOUT WARNING, THERE WAS A DRASTIC CHANGE!** **Matthew** records **“And behold there arose a great tempest in the sea” (8:24)**. **Mark** writes, **“And there arose a great storm of wind” (Mark 4:37)**, and **Luke** writes, **“and there came down a storm of wind on the lake” (8:23)**. **THE STORM CAME SUDDENLY!** The **storms** of life can swoop down upon us **suddenly and unexpectedly!**

### ② **The Storms Can Be Severe:**

**Matthew** and **Mark** both use the word **“great”** in describing the storm (**Matthew 8:24; Mark 4:37**). The storm was **substantial**, it was **significant, extraordinary**, and **immense**. **IT WAS BIGGER THAN THEM!** It was a storm of **“wind”** and **“waves” (Mark 4:37)**. Due to the severity of the storm, the boat, and even their lives were in **danger**. **Matthew** in describing the storm, wrote that **“the ship was covered with the waves” (Matthew 8:24)**. **Mark** wrote **“and the waves beat (pounded) into the ship, so that it was now full” (Mark 4:37)**, and **Luke** wrote **“and they were filled with water” (Luke 8:23)**. The storm was so severe that **Luke** writes that they **“were in jeopardy” (Luke 8:23)**. **THE SHIP WAS NEAR TO GOING TO PIECES!** They were in such **“jeopardy”** that **Matthew, Mark, and Luke** all record the words **“we perish” (Matthew 8:25; Mark 4:38; Luke 8:24)**. **THEY WERE FRIGHTENED AND TERRIFIED, COMPLETELY HELPLESS, AND CERTAIN OF DEATH!**

### ③ **Things Are Not Always What They Appear In The Storm:**

Sometimes in the storm the **Lord** appears to be indifferent. **Matthew** records “*the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep*” (**Matthew 8:23**). **Mark** records “*the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow*” (**4:37-38**). **Luke** records “*But as they sailed He fell asleep*” (**8:23**). ALL THREE TOOK NOTICE THAT HE WAS ASLEEP! And **Mark** records, that when they came to **Christ** to awake Him, that they said “*Master, carest thou not that we perish*” (**4:38**). They went to **Christ** with impatience, unbelief, and great fear, doubting His concern and commitment to Him! When **Christ** appears to be indifferent, it is just that, an appearance, and such only adds to the stress of the storm! THE LORD IS NEVER INDIFFERENT! He knows and is concerned about what is happening to His people, and what is happening in His people, and HE IS IN CONTROL!

### III. THE ADVANTAGES OF THE STORM

The purpose of the storm was not to destroy them, not to harm them, but to help them, to change them, to challenge them, to strengthen them, to better them, and to teach them! This is a truth that God’s people must never lose sight of, THE STORMS AND STRUGGLES ARE NOT SENT TO DESTROY US, BUT TO DEVELOP US! Contrary to common belief, the storms and struggles are not always a bad thing! The **Lord** uses such to direct us, to inspect us, to correct us, to connect us to Him, and to perfect us!

#### ① **It Was In The Storm That They Were Brought To See How Little Control That They Had:**

After spending some time on the storm-tossed waters, fighting the powerful wind, and the overwhelming waves, and after their boat filled with water, they were brought to the terrifying discovery, that though at least four of them, **Peter, Andrew, James,** and **John** were experienced fishermen, and no doubt were familiar with the **Sea of Galilee** and had experienced many terrible storms in the past, THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO HANDLE THIS SITUATION! They, the seasoned and self-confident fishermen WERE UNABLE TO HANDLE THIS PARTICULAR STORM! It was in this storm, that they were brought to see, that A SITUATION HAD SWOOPED DOWN UPON THEM THAT WAS BEYOND THEIR CONTROL!

#### ② **It Was In The Storm That The Weakness Of Their Faith Was Manifested:**

They were fearful, anxious, and greatly distressed, there was a commotion within them, and this was due to a lack of faith (**Matthew 8:26; Mark 4:40; Luke 8:25**).

#### ③ **It Was In The Storm That They Experienced A Calm:**

**Matthew** and **Luke** record that **Christ** “*arose and rebuked the winds and the sea*” (**Matthew 8:26; Luke 8:24**). **Mark** records what **Christ** said in rebuking the winds and the sea, “*Peace be still*” (**Mark 4:39**). **Matthew** and **Mark** both record “*and there*

was **a great calm**" (**Matthew 8:26; Mark 4:39**), and **Luke** records "and they (the wind and the raging of the water) **ceased, and there was a calm**" (**Luke 8:24**). **THE CALM WAS GREATER THAN THE STORM!** He not only calmed the **wind** and the **waves**, HE CALMED THE STORM THAT WAS RAGING IN THEIR HEARTS, AND AGAIN, THE CALM WAS GREATER THAN THEIR FEAR!

④ ***It Was In The Storm That They Would Have A Fresh Discovery Of Christ:***

It was in this storm that **Christ** manifested that **HE IS THE MASTER OF THE WND**, and the **disciples** stood in **awe** of Him (**Matthew 8:27; Mark 4:41; Luke 8:25**).

○ *It Was In The Storm That They Learned Of **The Importance Of The Presence Of The Lord.***

○ *It Was In The Storm That They Received A Fresh Discovery Of **The Power Of The Lord.***

○ *It Was In The Storm That They Received A Fresh Discovery About **The Person Of The Lord.***

○ *It Was In The Storm That They Learned More Fully That **He Is The One Who Can.***

○ *It Was In The Storm That They Learned More Fully Of His **Love, Care, Grace And Mercy.***

○ *It Was In The Storm That **Jesus Christ** Became More **Precious**, More **Lovely**, More **Beautiful**, And More **Meaningful** To Them.*

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The storms will come, and **Christ can calm the storm** with a word, and He **can calm the hearts of His people in the storm!** God's people are headed for the heavenly shore, for a safe-haven, and no storm can change that! God's people may have to go the way of **stormy seas**, they may have to go the way of **rough waters**, they may have to go the way of **mighty winds**, and they may have to go the way of much **turbulence**, but **THE FINAL DESTINATION NEVER CHANGES!**

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