

WORD

Sermon Title: "Peace in the Storm"

Text: Matthew 8:23–27

INTRO: Storms are not a matter of *if*—they are a matter of *when*.
I'm STILL cleaning up from the last wind storm that blew over our 300 foot fence AND the many trees around our home...

WORD!????...IF YOU MISSED LAST WEEK'S SERMON "PLEASE" GO ON LINE AND WATCH IT!!!!-Discipleship-The "SECOND" Reason we are SAVED From LAST WEEK, Jesus had just told His disciples to depart with Him to the other side... Of the Sea of Galilee (84 Feet Deep Max)

I've been there and it's similar to lake Ponderay around the long bridge wide but not deep and when the wind goes crazy that lake will kill you by drowning in a heartbeat when it swamps your boat

Matt. 8:23 *When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. ²⁵ And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" ²⁶ He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. ²⁷ The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"*

CAN YOU SAY GOD...the Creator of the heavens and earth who spoke ALL Creation into existence, with a word ☺

Storms are not a matter of *if*—they are a matter of *when*.

Some storms are financial. Some are physical.

Some are emotional.

Some are spiritual. Some are spiritual. Some are spiritual.

Some of our storms are grief, betrayal, fear, anxiety, depression, marriage trouble, prodigal children, church conflict, or silent suffering.

The shocking truth of this passage is this:

Even through we follow Jesus, it does not exempt you from storms. In fact...

Sometimes obedience to Jesus leads you straight into one.

And all of our Pastors just said AMEN ☺

Don't miss this POINT: The disciples got into that boat because Jesus told them to....they were following Jesus and STILL got hit by a Storm!!!!!!

They were in the storm because they were in the will of God.

Did you ever think God placed you in the middle of a storm to teach you something, **or** show you something in your life that you need to address, **or** help you see things from a different perspective, **or** to protect you from a GREATER STORM if you continue down the road you are walking, **or** to get your attention and remind you that ONLY GOD IS IN CONTROL...**ALL THE TIME!!! ☺**

MOST OF YOU KNOW THIS PASSAGE, BUT DO YOU BELIEVE IT???? ☺

Rom. 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;* ³⁰ *and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*

Many believers think:

“If I’m obeying God, life should get easier.”

But often: **The pathway of obedience runs straight through a storm.**

BIBLICAL TRUTH: STORMS CAN HIT EVEN WHEN YOU ARE WITH JESUS

Matt. 8:23 *When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep.*

DON'T MISS THIS: The disciples were not running from Jesus...

They were **following** Jesus. Yet the storm still came...While Jesus peacefully slept

QUESTION: Does a storm in your life mean God is angry with you? ☺

NOW LET'S TAKE THIS A LITTLE DEEPER...

Storms in life can be used by God for different purposes...

- **A Storm can be a divine classroom** where God “personally” teaches you a Biblical Truth you may not otherwise be open to...**OR a Storm can also be...**
- **A Storm can be a Faith Laboratory per James 1**

James 1:2-4 *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

- **A Storm can be a spiritual surgery room** where you undergo complete Heart Surgery...Not a *bypass* but a *Heart Transplant*

Psalm Of David. 51:5 *Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom. Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

- **A Storm can ALSO be a preparation season for something BIG God wants to do in your life...**STEVE PERSONAL STORY: The Cost to Move to Idaho**** I have lost count of the STORMS I have been through in my life AND GOD HAS USED EVERYONE OF THEM TO PREPARE ME FOR TODAY! ☺

II. QUESTION: So how can Jesus be sleeping in the bottom of the boat with all of the chaos that is going on around him...in and outside of the boat?

VERSE 24: *And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; **but Jesus Himself was asleep.***

Reason #1 Jesus was fully man and was just plain tired!

Reason #2 Jesus was fully God and didn't have to be awake to still be in control, God who knows ALL THINGS ☺ ...Worry doesn't exist in God's vocabulary!!!!

POINT: The storm that terrifies you *is still under "His" control.*

If Jesus is at peace AT ALL TIMES...you can be too!.

What the Apostle Paul wrote in the Book of Philippians would have helped the disciples who were in the boat with Jesus...

*Phil. 4:4-7 **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!** ⁵ Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.** ⁷ **And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.***

What the Disciples AND YOU SHOULD DO when a STORM HITS...is start singing "Rejoice in the Lord al-al-ways, again I say Rejoice!"

Thank you Jesus that you are HERE WITH ME RIGHT NOW

Thank you Jesus that YOU are in Control!

Thank you Jesus that YOU are ALL POWERFUL

Thank you Jesus that YOU always hear my voice

Thank you Jesus that YOU are my ROCK

Thank you Jesus that YOU are the Alpha and the Omega

Thank you Jesus that since YOU are for me, NOTHING can stand against us

I **THANK** you get the idea (...PRAY With Thanksgiving!)

POINT: The disciples had MORE FAITH IN THE STORM'S POWER...

than in the Savior's presence.....I mean Jesus was physically right there with em!

VERSE 25-26 *And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, “**Save us, Lord; we are perishing!**” ²⁶ He said to them, “**Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?**” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became **perfectly** calm. ²⁷ The men were amazed, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”*

WATCH THIS: JESUS REBUKED FEAR BEFORE HE REBUKED THE STORM

Don't miss the order.

Jesus rebuked the disciple's *little faith* first. **Then** He rebuked the wind.

Why?

Because the greatest storm was not outside the boat—
it was inside the disciples hearts.

External storms are dangerous.

Internal storms are deadly.

Fear is often a much bigger threat than any Storm you could experience.

Most people don't drown from the storm...they are drowning from the panic and unchecked FEAR...MOST OFTEN because of a lack of faith in Jesus.

Satan loves it when believers fall into the FEAR TRAP:

He LOVES our anxiety and our unbelief and our despair and our hopelessness when we take our eye off of Jesus and *focus on storms instead*, WHICH IS THE ABSENCE OF FAITH IN GOD...

*THIS IS WHY JESUS REBUKED THE LACK OF FAITH IN THE DISCIPLES,
“BEFORE” HE REBUKED THE STORM!*

GET THIS! *PEACE is not the absence of A STORM, it is the presence of trust IN OUR ALMIGHTY GOD, JESUS Right smack in the face of a Storm!*

POINT: Jesus did not say: YOU of “No faith”

Jesus said: YOU of *little faith*

BECAUSE: *Small faith can still be saving faith.*

This is **NOT** an issue of “perfect” faith.

The REAL issue is “*WHERE*” your little faith is placed.

Little faith in a great Savior is stronger than great confidence in yourself.

FINAL VERSE:

27 The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

MY FINAL POINT:

THE GOAL OF ANY STORM GOD ALLOWS IN OUR LIFE, IS ALWAYS REVELATION

"What kind of man is this..."

The storm revealed another aspect of Jesus the disciples had missed.

The disciples knew Jesus as teacher.

Now, perhaps for the first time, they see Him as sovereign Lord.

Some revelations about Jesus only come in storms.

Because YOU and I learn MORE things about our God in *suffering* than we ever could learn in comfort...

Some of you might be in a storm right now.

SO...Hear this clearly:

If Jesus is in your boat, you are not going under!!! YOU WILL NOT DROWN
Even if you feel water. Even if you feel wind. Even if you are fearful...**you will not sink!!!** ***Because storms do not decide your future—JESUS DOES 😊***

STEVE STORY: I USED TO FEAR FLYING...MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!!!

A little girl was on a plane flying through violent turbulence.

Passengers were panicking.

People were crying.

Flight attendants were nervous.

But one little girl sat calmly coloring.

Someone finally asked:

"How are you so calm?"

She smiled and said:

"Because my daddy is the pilot."

And ONE FINAL REMINDER: Some of you need to stop trying to control the storm.....and simply start trusting MORE IN YOUR SAVIOR...JESUS!