

Jesus Calms the Storm
January 24, 2016
Luke 8:22-56 (focus Luke 8:22-25)

Jesus knew the storm was coming and certainly could have prevented it. He permitted it to teach his disciples but mainly for His glory.

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance (advance) of the gospel. **Philippians 1:12**

The Disciples, to this point, had followed Jesus and were on mission with Him. A little bit at a time they were understanding more and more of who He was. They were sailing to the “other side” to continue God’s plan when the storm came up.

1) **Storms come, even in obedience.**

Jonah’s storm was because of **disobedience**, however, the Disciples’ storm came in **obedience**.

Others, including Joseph, Job, Paul and David, just to name a few, faced storms and many of them as they obeyed God.

Are you facing storms? Are they self-inflicted storms or are you facing storms even as you obey Jesus? Our world may be a scary place and we may face storms in our family, workplaces, schools, church and community but do we trust God in our storm?

Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

God never promised the absence of storms, struggles or difficulties in our life.

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. **John 16:33**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation. **1 Corinthians 1:3-7**

Yes, storms will come, including moments of uncertainty, difficulties, struggle and heartache even in obedience, though all the while God is using it to shape us and for His glory, to advance the Gospel.

2) **What is our response in the storms?**

The Disciples’ response was:

- We are perishing/ dying. – Luke 8:22-25
- They were fearful. – Matthew 8:23-27
- They questioned if Jesus cared. – Mark 4:31-41

Are these not thoughts and questions we have all asked?

- Jesus, can't you see I am "dying" here? Things are falling apart.
- I am so afraid. I am paralyzed in fear. I don't know what to do.
- Jesus, do you even care? Do you even know what is happening?

Such questions come not from Jesus, but from the enemy. What's important is what we do when those thoughts and questions come to mind.

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

Psalm 56:3

3) Our response shows our faith, or lack thereof.

"They (disciples) had little faith or they would not have been so frightened; but they had some faith, else they would not have appealed to Jesus".¹

At the very least, the Disciples took their concern to Jesus yet, did so fearful, "dying" and wondering if Jesus even cared, but at least they took their concern to Jesus.

"It has well been said that faith is not believing in spite of circumstances; it is obeying in spite of feeling and consequences...**faith and fear cannot dwell together in the same heart.**" ~ Warren Wiersbe

Don't let Jesus be your last resort when caught in a struggle, storm or difficulty. Let Him be your first and main priority.

4) We must lay our storm or concern at Jesus' feet, He can handle it.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Who do we trust? The Disciples had a need for peace and Jesus could provide it.

"I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed .

Daniel 7:13-14.

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Matthew 28:18

"Sometimes He calms the storm, sometimes He calms me, Sometimes the storm still rages on but I feel the sweetest peace. It's such a joy to know that my Lord knows just what I need Sometimes He calms the storm, and sometimes He calms me." ~ Recorded by The McKamey's

But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance (advance) of the gospel.

Philippians 1:12

¹ The Fourfold Gospel: or A Harmony of the Four Gospels.