HE CALMS THE STORM

**DATE: 8/5/2018 SS**

**TEXT: Mark 6:45-52**

**INTRODUCTION**

Sometimes life gets tough!

It can get messy … fast, and sometimes, there seems to be no end to how bad it can get

During these times we need Someone We can turn too!

Of all the promises Jesus has given us: Heaven, eternal life, His Second Coming, etc. …

Probably among the most meaningful are …

**Hebrews 13:5 – *“I will never leave thee”***

**Matthew 28:20 – *“Lo I am with you alway”***

**John 14:18 – “*I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you”***

When life stinks (as it often does) we have the Lord with us to help us and guide us through

This truth is demonstrated in these verses

Watching these men endure this time of testing can teach us some great truths we need to know when we face our storms

And we will face storms!

In fact, you are in one of three places right now …

In a storm, coming out of a storm, or about to go into a storm (I hope you are prepared)

There are physical storms, mental storms, emotional storms and spiritual storms

There are storms in homes, marriages, families, at work and at church

There are storms that rage publicly and there are storms that manifest themselves in the secret places of the heart

Storms are part of our human existence

Turn with to **Psalm 107:23-30 …**

Storms touch every part of our lives

We often find ourselves in stormy situations

These verses offer some help and hope for when we pass through the stormy times of life

Regardless of where we might be today, we need the lessons taught here to help us endure our time on life’s stormy sea

As we look at these thoughts

I want you to keep the last phrase in **v. 32** in mind …

***“and the wind ceased”*** (And here’s the Truth)

We have a Saviour **“Who Calms the Storm”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

Before we begin our thoughts

Let’s just kind of go over what is happening here

It had been a busy day for Jesus and His disciples

They had ministered to the crowds all day long

Jesus had taught them the Word of God, and when late afternoon came, Jesus manifested His power and glory by feeding some 15,000 to 20,000 people with five loaves and two small fishes

Now, evening is quickly approaching, and Jesus sends His men away by boat to the other side of the lake – **v. 45**

There are a couple of reasons Jesus sent His men away at this point

The first had to do with the crowds Jesus had just fed

**John 6:15** tells us that the people were so excited by the miracle of the bread and fish that they tried to take Jesus and make Him their king

It was not the time for that, so He sent His men away to remove them from the situation

Jesus did not want them to get caught up in that kind of thinking

By the way, the people only wanted to make Jesus a king because He gave them bread

**John 6:26 – *“Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek Me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled”***

The same is true today!

People go into the voting booth and elect the people who promise them the most … personally

Another reason Jesus sent the disciples away, was so He could spend some time alone with His Father

He knew that the miracles and His popularity with the people would bring Him into direct conflict with the religious leaders

He knew that intense persecution and eventually death were just around the corner

He needed to seek His Father in prayer

What a lesson for us!

We should be people of prayer, seeking the Lord’s help at every turn in the road of life

A third reason for the disciples being sent away had to do with the disciples themselves

After all they had seen Jesus do they were still filled with doubts and unbelief

Jesus will use this storm to reveal His deity and power to His disciples one more time

First, let’s look at how …

**I. HE “SENT” THEM – v. 45**

I want you to notice that the storm came when they were in the will of God

Look Who it was that send them

**v. 45 …**

***“And straightway He constrained His disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while He sent away the people”***

Look at the word ***“Constrained”*** – *To compel, to push into!*

They were safer in the storm in God’s will than on land out of God’s will!

**A. Some Myths about our Storms**

Many Christians believe falsely about the storms of life

We Believe that obedience to God produces smooth sailing

But when we’re not right with God were in for trouble

But that’s not always necessarily so

We think that ...

**1.** Our *Sin* causes the Storm

**John 9:1-3 – *“And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth” “And His disciples asked Him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him”***

**2.** Our *Disobedience* causes the Storm

**John 16:33 – *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”***

**3.** If God cared, He would stop the Storm

Did Jesus know? Yes!

Yet He deliberately sent them into the storm

He had a purpose

There are Storms of Correction and Storms for Perfection

**Isaiah 55:8, 9 –** ***“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD” “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts”***

Does He care? Yes! He knows what is best!

**4.** I don’t deserve this!

Why not? / What makes us better than anyone else?

Who are we?

**Job 14:1 – *“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble”*Job 5:7 – *“Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward”***

Our greatest enemy is usually ourselves

God is the Potter, we are the Clay – **Isaiah 64:8**

Let Him mold you into what He will

**B. Sometimes Storms are Satanic in Origin**

Satan hates it when we walk by Faith and begin to grow

Sometimes we don’t realize we’ve left the door open a little for him to get in

**Ephesians 4:27 – *“Neither give place to the devil”***

We will never be able to let down our guard this side of Heaven – **I Peter 5:8**

God allows some things for our growth

**NOT ONLY DID HE SEND THEM …**

**II. HE “SAW” THEM – vs. 46 – 48 a**

***“And when He had sent them away, He departed into a mountain to pray” “And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and He alone on the land” “And He saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them:”***

Out text tells us that ***“He saw them”***

**A. He was Watching**

They were on the sea in the middle of a dark stormy night

Jesus was miles away, on a mountain, praying to His Father

Yet, the Bible tells us that **“*He saw them*”** (explain)

This verse showcases two great truths that need to be mentioned about the Lord’s care for His people

**1.** His *Intercession*

Jesus was on this mountain, but He was not wasting His time

He was in prayer

Surely, He was praying for the direction of His ministry,

But I am also convinced that He was praying for the men struggling in the storm on the sea below

Saints, you have not been abandoned in the storms of your life!

The Lord Himself is praying for you at the throne of God,

**Romans 8:34 b – *“It is Christ … Who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us”***

**Hebrews 7:25 – *“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them”***

I can’t testify for you, but it sure does comfort my heart to know that the Lord is praying for me in Heaven!

**2.** His *Interest*

Even though He was occupied with Eternal matters

He is still *interested* in His men and their problems

He saw them **“*toiling*”**

This word literally refers to *a struggle*

These men were in unbelievable stress as they labored against the sea

Even the wind was **“*contrary*”**

This word means *in the face*

They were fighting for their very lives on the sea and Jesus saw it all

Jesus knew their condition / He knew what they faced

And He cared for them and for their safety

As His children we have the same assurance when we go through the storms of our lives

We have a Saviour who is interested in our condition and in what we are facing in life

In fact, our Lord is Moved by the storms we are called on to face

**Hebrews 4:15 – *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”***

He cares about what we face

**I Peter 5:7 – *“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you”***

Bring you impossible situations to Him and watch Him handle them in His power!

**B. He is Aware**

God knows what is going on and what He is doing!

Our job is to submit and allow Him His way in our lives

**Romans 8:28 – *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”***

**II Corinthians 4:17 – *“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;”***

He has absolute Sovereignty and He never makes mistakes!

**HE “SENT” THEM**

**HE “SAW” THEM**

**III. HE “SAVED” THEM – vs. 48 b – 51 …**

Jesus didn’t just send these men out there to die in that storm

And, He didn’t just watch from a safe distance while they struggled

Jesus took an active part in their rescue

Notice how the Lord Jesus ministered to His men on that stormy sea

**A. His ‘Presence’ – v. 48 b**

***“… and about the fourth watch of the night He cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them”***

They were not left to struggle alone

The Lord Himself came to them using the very waves they feared as His vehicle

(Imagine the scene!)

He has promised us that we can count on His presence as well

**Hebrews 13:5 b – *“for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”***

**Matthew 28:20 – *“lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen”***

**Psalm 37:25 – *“I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread”***

**Isaiah 41:10 – *“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness”***

**Deuteronomy 31:8 – *“And the LORD, He it is that doth go before thee; He will be with thee, He will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed”***

He will be with us to strengthen us and sustain us through all the storms of life

We don’t ever have to weather a storm alone!

**B. His ‘Peace’ – vs. 49, 50**

***“But when they saw Him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out:” “For they all saw Him, and were troubled …***

***… And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid”***

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they thought they were seeing a ghost

The word **“*spirit*”** in **v. 49** gives us our word *phantom*

They were terrified and **“*cried out*”**

That phrase literally means *to scream*

Have you ever heard grown men scream?

They screamed out loud because they were sure they were seeing a ghost walking on the water

The phrase **“*would have passed them by*”** means that Jesus walked out to where they were and began to walk parallel to their boat

These fellows thought they were dead men!

Jesus immediately seeks to comfort them

He identifies Himself by saying **“*It is I*”**

The word **“*I*”** is an emphatic personal pronoun

It is the same thing He said when He said **“*I am the Bread of Life*”; “*I am the Door*”; “*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life*” …**

It is His way of saying, “*Men, the great I AM is here”*

Then, He commands them to **“*be not afraid”***

He was saying stop being afraid and never fear again

If they could have grasped Who it was that was with them,

They would have known that there was no reason to be afraid!

It’s at this point in the Gospel of Matthew that Peter gets out of the boat

Isn’t it true that the storms of life terrify us?

Isn’t it true that often the Lord will come to us, walking on the very waves we fear?

And we don’t even recognize Him?

Isn’t it true that when we do acknowledge His Presence?

He is able to speak Peace to our souls?

I don’t know about you, but I thank God for the times He has whispered sweet peace to me in the midst of a storm in my life!

If we can just learn to recognize His Presence, even while we are in a storm,

We can have the Peace that **“*passeth all understanding*”** – **Phil 4:6, 7**

**C. His ‘Power’ – v. 51**

***“And He went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered”***

Jesus just walks up to the boat on the waves and gets in

When He does, the waves instantly cease

**John 6:21** tells us that when Jesus got into the boat, it immediately arrived at the other side of the lake

 What a miracle!

One moment they are in the midst of a raging sea

The next moment they are on a calm sea at their destination!

That is the Power of our Lord!

**CONCLUSION**

**v. 52 – *“For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened”***

If you are in a storm today in your life, you need to know that the Lord can calm the winds and waves

He can still your storm

He has the power to do just that

On the other hand, He might choose to do in you what He did in Paul

He might choose to leave you in the storm and calm the fear in your heart

**II Corinthians 12:9 – *“And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me”***

Either way the storm ceases to matter when He demonstrates His Power

He is able, **Ephesians 3:20 – *“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”***

**HE “SENT” THEM**

**HE “SAW” THEM**

**HE “SAVED” THEM**

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