

The Storms of Life

Matthew 8:22-27

Welcome back and here we go! I think all of us can relate to storms in life. Storms come in all types of forms and intensity. Yet, in them all, there is one solution – JESUS CHRIST.

Remember, **Chapters 8 and 9**, while they have many lessons, there is one truth being revealed ----- Jesus is God ----- Jesus is the Messiah.

Isaiah 61:1 / Luke 4:18-21 ----- Jesus claims --- this is Me.

In **Matthew 8 and 9** ----- He proves it!

Matthew 8:22-27

1) What stands out to you?

You know there is a lot going on. We have a sudden storm; we have a sleeping Jesus; we have fearful and faithless disciples; and we have Jesus calming the storm.

Here's the chain of events: STORM --- FEAR --- CRYING OUT --- SALVATION (RESCUED).

Sometimes we can see storms in our life coming, but, more often than not, they are sudden and unexpected. That is why we need to be securely rooted in the Word.

You know, lack of knowledge is the same as a sleeping Jesus. He is available (Jesus --- the Word), but we may not be equipped for the sudden storms.

2) (optional) Are you in any kind of storm today?

I think all of us have ongoing difficulties, but for today's lesson, we will.

3) How can Jesus sleep and is He asleep in your storm?

That's a big question. The disciples equated His sleep and silence as a lack of concern for their safety when in reality, He is sleeping because He has no worries. He is in the same storm, but has a different mental attitude. He has a Divine Viewpoint (DVP) and He is actually teaching His disciples through this storm.

It depends on the amount of doctrine stored in your soul, as to how long it will take you to find peace in a storm.

4) What is Jesus trying to teach you today?

You know, calming our storms does not necessarily mean the storms will go away, right? No, Jesus addressed the very root of the problem: FEAR & FAITH.

First off, FEAR. Why do we as believers have fear? Often it is because there is an uncertain outcome. ANXIETY: fear of what may or may not happen. Ultimately, we don't understand.

Maybe we need another example:

Matthew 14:22-33

Really, again, yes again. That's the thing about storms. They strike fear in us. We feel helpless. We cry out. We believe, and then we sink???

What the heck! You know Jesus instructed them ----- both times ----- get in the boat!

Come on kids, we are heading into a storm!

Both times they cry out in fear. Both times Jesus calms the storm. Both times He calls them out on their FAITH. Both times they survive with hopefully more confidence.

5) How have you survived storms in the past?

You know we don't have to survive. We can thrive in storms. We can walk on the proverbial waters, by taking Jesus' hand, meaning grasp the Word and move to a Divine Viewpoint.

Is God trying to destroy you?

Jesus is calling on you to look to Him and not the storm. If you know God doesn't want to destroy you, you can survive your storm.

We will close today with this: You have survived many storms and there are more to come. The question is: *"How do you sleep, have the peace of God/Jesus, in the storm?"* Jesus isn't sleeping in your storm. He is Lord over your storm. He has allowed it. So get out of the boat! Get above the issue.

6) This is why I trust Jesus and can get out of the boat!

Let's pray that we remember Jesus is not worried about my storms' outcome because He has seen the end and He is still Lord and you WILL SURVIVE.

.....Either with PEACE or in FEAR.

Let's pray.