

Jesus is Lord of the Storms, Therefore, We are Not Alone!

John 6:15-25

Happy Mother's Day! The text before us this morning may not seem appropriate for Mother's Day, yet it is applicable to every mom and dad, every son and daughter; everyone will face storms in life!

In the Bible, the "sea" is a picture of unrest, vastness, or struggle yet God uses the sea and the storms to teach us many important lessons!

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Three certain realities concerning the nature of the storms of life:

- ✓ They are inevitable and impartial! They are going to come. It rains on the just and the unjust alike!
- ✓ They often come suddenly, without warning! The ringing of the telephone can change your life; immediately you are thrust into a great storm.
- ✓ They can be very severe and life changing! There are times when you think the boat is about to sink! The disciples had experienced this before. (Mark 4:35-41)

Three comforting realities in the storms of life:

- ✓ Jesus sent the disciples into the storm. (John 6:15-17; Matt. 14:22-23; Mark 6:45-46) Often we may think that the storms come because we have missed the will of God somewhere. We feel that we are being punished for some wrong we have done. This is not always the case!

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Two possibilities concerning the purpose of the storms of life:

- There can be storms of correction like the one Jonah experienced! Jonah's rebellion and disobedience also cost those around him.
 - There can also be storms of perfection! Some storms are designed by God to shape us and teach us to trust Him. Could this present crisis help teach us to trust in Him?
- ✓ Jesus saw the disciples in the midst of the storm. (Mark 6:48) Here is one of my favorite settings in the Bible!

The disciples were in the midst of the storm, struggling to keep the boat from sinking, in the darkness, in distress! **Where is Jesus?**

Jesus is on the mountain praying! Where is Jesus when you feel overwhelmed? Praying and interceding for you!

- ✓ Jesus went to the disciples in the midst of the storm. (John 6:18-21) It is very comforting to know that the Master of the storm will be with us in the midst of the storm.

It doesn't say that Jesus waited until the weather improved and then came to them! He came to them walking on the water, in the storm! They were frightened, but Jesus spoke words of comfort! "It is I; do not be afraid."

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John clearly wants us to know that Jesus is Lord over all the created world!

Note: Jesus enables Peter to walk on the water! Only Matthew records the response of Peter. (Matthew 14:28-31) Here are lessons of faith and doubt! Keep your eyes upon Jesus when you are struggling in the storm, when we take our eyes off Jesus and have doubt, we sink!

Various responses: Matthew 14:33, "Those in the boat worshipped Him saying, 'You are certainly the Son of God.'"

Mark 6:51-52, "Then He got into the boat with them, the wind stopped; and they were utterly astonished, for they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their hearts were hardened."

John sets the scene for the crowds gathering with the inquiry of, "How did Jesus arrive, if not by boat?" The crowds were curious! But soon they would all walk away!

