

SERMON-BASED STUDY: STORMS

John 6:16-21, ESV – ¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were frightened. ²⁰ But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” ²¹ Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.

Notes:

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QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week we see that sometimes, Jesus pushes His disciples into storms. Why does He do this?

2 Share a time in your life when you were in a storm. How did Jesus help you in the midst of the storm?

3 Why is worship a natural and appropriate response to Jesus after the storms of life?

DIGGING DEEPER

A *Isaiah 43:2-3a, ESV* – ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Joshua 1:9, ESV – ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

John 16:33, ESV – ³³ I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

4 Looking at the passages above, we read that we will face storms in this life. At the same time, we read that God is with us through it all. Why is it difficult to believe that God is with us in the midst of the storm?

5 How can a follower of Jesus better prepare themselves for the storms of life before they come?

6 In John 16:33, Jesus' warning also comes with a promise of peace. Does having peace in the midst of the storm change the circumstances? Does it change the way you handle the circumstances? Explain.

B *2 Corinthians 4:8-12, ESV* – ⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you.

2 Timothy 4:17-18, ESV – ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

7 According to the passages above, why do followers of Jesus endure times of affliction, perplexion, persecution and being struck down?

8 When Paul states, “The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom,” does he mean that he will not face tough times? Explain.

9 How does the “life of Jesus being manifested in our bodies” serve as a testimony to others?

TAKING IT HOME

In the midst of the storms of life, we can be confident that Jesus is right there with us even if we do not sense His presence. How are you doing at being at peace during the trials and tribulations when they come? How are you doing at allowing the life of Jesus to be manifested in your life? Share with your group or accountability partner what God has been showing you. Pray for one another as you seek to live in peace during the storms of life.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Psalm 107:23-32
- Malachi 3:3
- Matthew 14:22-23, 26-33
- Mark 6:48-50a
- John 6:20-21
- Acts 17:27-28
- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4