

Matthew 8:23-27: And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a **great storm** on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." ²⁶ And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a **great calm**. ²⁷ And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Intro: My first sight in Israel; In Matthew chapter 8, we've seen that Jesus has all authority over disease & sickness (He cleansed the leper, He healed the paralyzed servant, He healed Peter's mother-in-law & many others); He has all authority over His disciples & all people (We must follow Jesus at great cost, making any sacrifice to follow Him); & here today we see that Jesus Christ has all authority over all nature & calamity. Next we'll see He has all authority over demons & devils! That's our King! He has all authority in heaven & on earth! & He loves us!

1. Jesus' Disciples Followed Him Into The Storm

Matthew 8:23: And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.

a. Jesus' disciples followed Him: Matthew 8:19-22: And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you **wherever you go**." ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ²¹ Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ²² And Jesus said to him, "**Follow me**, and leave the dead to bury their own dead."

b. Jesus disciples followed Him into the storm that He created and caused to happen:

Paul Tautges: He [God] created and controls the seasons (Genesis 1:14; Psalms 74:16-17; 104:19).

He raises the sun every morning (Psalm 104:19).

He created, named, and leads the stars (Psalm 147:4; Job 38:32-33).

He causes the wind to blow (Exodus 14:21; Job 28:25-27; Psalm 78:26; Jonah 1:4; Matthew 8:26-27).

He created & controls the water cycle (Job 26:8-9; Job 5:10; Psalm 135:7; 147:8; Matthew 5:45; Acts 14:17).

He sustains the earth (Job 5:10; Psalm 135:6).

He sends the morning dew (Proverbs 3:19-20).

He causes lunar eclipses (Job 26:8-9).

He provides for the growth of grass and crops (Psalm 147:8).

He sends lightning (Job 37:1-18; Job 1:16).

He sends loud thunderstorms (Jeremiah 10:13; 1 Samuel 12:17-18).

He sends hail and snow, ice and frost (Psalm 148:8; Job 38:22-30).

He nourishes the earth so that it produces crops and fruit (Leviticus 26:4; Job 36:26-33; Deuteronomy 11:10-15).

He brings the spring seed time and fall harvest (Jeremiah 5:24; Genesis 8:22; Deuteronomy 33:13-14).

He paints the rainbow of His promise (Genesis 9:14-16).

He sends earthquakes (Psalms 68:7-9).

He provides plentiful pasture lands for livestock (Isaiah 30:23).

He sends the scorching sun (Genesis 8:22; Jonah 4:8).

He withholds rain, causing drought (1 Kings 8:35-36; 2 Chronicles 6:26-27).

He will destroy the present earth with fire – the ultimate global warming (2 Peter 3:10).

He will create a new heaven & a new earth where He will forever dwell with His redeemed ones (Rev. 21:1-5).

While Jesus was a little baby in the manger, He upheld the world by the Word of His power. And while He slept in this boat, He was in total control of the storm! And Jesus led them into the storm! It's comforting to know that God reigns over your trials! To humble us; to make us depend more fully on Him; to show us our sin; to reveal more of Himself to us; to move us to pray; to move us to seek Him like never before; to make us more like Jesus!

2. A Great Storm Arose

Matthew 8:24: And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep.

a. The great storm: Seismos: The Greek word for “earthquake”-waves were swamping the boat. Truly terrifying!

b. Jesus slept through all of this: Jesus got tired from ministry! Jesus is truly a man! He ate, drank, and slept!

Creflo Dollar: Jesus didn't come as God, He came as a man, and He did not come perfect . . . And somebody said well Jesus came as God, well how many of you know the Bible says God never sleeps nor slumbers and yet in the book of Mark we see Jesus asleep in the back of the boat. (Hypostatic Union!)

c. Jesus trusted God: Psalm 4:8: In peace I will both lie down & sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

3. Jesus' Disciples Fear They Are Perishing

Matthew 8:25: And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing."

They are truly afraid! They have a real reason to be afraid! They go to the right place! They go to the right person!

Song: No water can swallow the ship where lies the Master of ocean, and earth, and skies.

J. C. Ryle: How many have faith & love enough to forsake all for Christ's sake, & to follow Him whithersoever he goes, & yet are full of fears in the hour of trial! How many have grace enough to turn to Jesus in every trouble, crying, "Lord, save us," & yet not grace enough to lie still, & believe in the darkest hour that all is well!

Do you have real, legitimate fears for your own life this morning? Do you fear you might die?

Jesus Strong & Kind: Jesus said that if I thirst; I should come to Him; No one else can satisfy; I should come to Him!
Jesus said if I am weak; I should come to Him; No one else can be my strength; I should come to Him!
For the Lord is good and faithful; He will keep us day and night; We can always run to Jesus; Jesus strong & kind!
Jesus said that if I fear; I should come to Him; No one else can be my shield; I should come to Him!
Jesus said if I am lost; He will come to me; And He showed me on that cross; He will come to me! **GOSPEL!**

4. Jesus Questions His Disciples

Matthew 8:26: And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?"

Why are you afraid? Because of this storm! Because the boat is sinking! Because we are doing to die!

But Jesus is with them! This makes all the difference! **Isaiah 41:10**

Matthew 10:28-31: And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Matthew Henry: He does not chide them for disturbing him [His sleep] with their prayers, but for disturbing themselves with their [own] fears.

But notice little faith saves! Jesus hears their cry and saves them! D. A. Carson illustration.

5. Jesus Calms The Storm

Matthew 8:26: Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

Mankind, with all of his technology and military power and ability to build large buildings and ships and get to the moon – still cannot tame or control the weather!

a. Jesus does what only God can do: Psalm 89:8-9: O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you? You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.

- **Psalm 107:25-30:** For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. ²⁶ They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; ²⁷ they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end. ²⁸ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁹ He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. ³⁰ Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven.

- **Psalm 65:5-8:** By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth & of the farthest seas; the one who by his strength established the mountains, being girded with might; who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples, so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

Duguid/Dorani: It reminds us of creation, when God brought order out of chaos by His Word.

Dever: It's as if Jesus is calling on the two witnesses, the wind & the waves, to testify to Who He truly is!

Calvin: Those who know God's power safely rest in His protection, for He controls all the harmful things we fear.

6. Jesus' Disciples Marvel At Him

Matthew 8:27: And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

a. "the men": Morris: this is not the way disciples are generally described . . . "the men" stand over against the one whom "the winds and the sea" obey. Matthew certainly contrasts the majesty of Jesus with the powerlessness of his followers.

b. The men marvel: V. 27: "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

Exodus 14:31: Israel saw the great power that the LORD used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the LORD, and they believed in the LORD (**Do you marvel at Jesus? Are you amazed at Jesus?!**)

Applications: Platt: The promise is not that all the storms in your life will end soon. The Bible does not guarantee this, nor can anyone else. Your cancer may not go away, and that struggle in your marriage may not end this week, or even this year. As a believer, your confidence is not that these storms will end very soon, but that in the midst of the storms in your life, you will never be alone. God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, will be with you every step in the midst of the storm. Faith is not confidence that trials won't come your way. Faith is confidence that no matter what wind and waves come your way in this world, the God of the universe will be right there in the boat with you. His power and His presence will see you through. Christian, you are not alone, and ultimately you are safe in the presence of the One who has ultimate authority over all disaster.

Ligon Duncan: Ed Hartman, a dear friend & minister . . . lost his dear wife, Amy, last year. Ed told some of his friends once before her death, "I know that God will heal Amy, or He will do something better." That is faith in the midst of a storm, and that is the faith which Christ calls for all of His disciples to have in Him.

Greg Nichols: 1) Believe whatever He says; 2) Do whatever He wants; 3) Go wherever He sends you; 4) Tell Him whatever you need; 5) Don't fight against Him because you can't win!

What sort of man is this? He's the God-Man, the Messiah, the Son of God, born of a virgin, Who lived a perfect life, loved like no one ever loved, died on that cross and bore the wrath of God, and rose up from the dead!

Seismos: The Greek word for "earthquake" – a greater earthquake/seaquake would take place in Jesus' life!

- **Matthew 27:54:** When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the **earthquake** and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

- **Matthew 28:2:** And behold, there was a **great earthquake**, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Joel Beeke: Only Jesus' work on the cross can still the great storm of God's wrath so that we might have peace with God!

The great storm is turned into a great calm by a great Savior Who does great wonders, causes great amazement, & brought about a great salvation by His death & resurrection from that grave! That's my King! Do you know Him?!

And He puts all of your great fears in perspective so that they aren't so great anymore!

Hymn: What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

I have peace complete with my Lord so near, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

Leaning, Leaning, Safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, Leaning, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms!

Christ Jesus Reigns And Calms The Storm
Though Winds And Waves Around Them Swarm
This Feat The LORD God Did Perform
The God-Man Stands And Calms The Storm
Though Sin And Threats Around You Swarm
He Died And Rose To Life Transform
And Through His Spirit Grant Reform
So You'll Have Peace In Any Storm
And Find In Him Your Hearts Grow Warm
As In His Image You'll Conform
His Grace And Peace Will Be Your Norm
All For God's Glory In The Storm!