BURN OUR HEARTS · STUDY GUIDE

Growing Through Storms

On the sermon **"Growing Through Storms"** by **Pastor Philip Anthony Mitchell**, 2819 Church · May 5, 2024 · Matthew 14:22-33

MATTHEW 14:22-33 (ESV)

(vv. 22-28 in your Bible) [29]He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. [30]But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." [31]Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" [32]And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. [33]And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

MAIN IDEA

"The real victory in all the trials that you survived is you growing in the grandeur and greatness of who Jesus is in your life."

MAJOR POINTS in the order preached

1. **The storm inside His will.** (vv. 22-24)
   - **a** **Sent on purpose.** *"It's not because God doesn't love you, it's because He actually sent you into that storm."*
   - **b** **He prays first.** *"He sends the disciples into the sea. He sends Himself into the secret place."*
   - **c** **Keep rowing.** *"When you feel adversity inside of God's will, keep rowing forward inside of God's will."*
2. **The One who walks on the sea.** (vv. 25-27; Psalm 77:19)
   - **a** **Walking out the word.** *"He's walking on the water, and He's walking out the word at the same time."*
   - **b** **Fear distorts.** *"Anxiety makes you have bad doctrine."*
   - **c** **His word and His presence.** *"How did the Lord comfort these men in their fear? With His word and with His presence."*
3. **The hand that catches sinking people.** (vv. 28-33)
   - **a** **Wait for the word.** *"Peter didn't get out that boat until he heard the Lord say, 'Come.'"*
   - **b** **A short, honest cry.** *"Sometimes when you're in trouble, you don't got time for a thesis."*
   - **c** **Jesus is the hero.** *"The focus on the text is not Peter. The focus on the text is Jesus."*

KEY INSIGHTS our observations, not from the sermon

- **Hand first, then the word.** Verse 31 does hold a rebuke: "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" But Jesus says it while He holds Peter up. Grace reaches him in the middle of failing.
- **Not every storm is sent the same way.** These disciples were obeying. Jonah's storm came because he fled "from the presence of the LORD" (Jonah 1:3). If your storm is your own doing, the answer is repentance, not just more rowing.

DIGGING DEEPER The sea and its Master in the big story of Scripture

- **Creation.** In the beginning "the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2). God alone "trampled the waves of the sea" (Job 9:8).
- **Fall.** After sin, the waters became judgment. Jonah went under them and prayed, "all your breakers and your waves passed over me" (Jonah 2:3).
- **Promise.** At the Exodus God made a road through the sea: "Your way was through the sea," yet "your footprints were unseen" (Psalm 77:19).
- **Fulfillment.** Jesus walks on the sea and says "it is I" (v. 27). Then at the cross He went under the waves for sinners, because "something greater than Jonah is here" (Matthew 12:41).
- **New creation.** In the world to come, "the sea was no more" (Revelation 21:1). No more storms, and the Son of God in the middle of His people.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus "made" the disciples get into the boat (v. 22) knowing a storm was ahead. Pastor Mitchell says God allows "storms for correcting and storms for perfecting." How can you tell which one you are in?
2. After one storm the disciples asked, "What sort of man is this" (Matthew 8:27). After this one they said, "Truly you are the Son of God" (v. 33). What storm has grown your view of Jesus?
3. Pastor Mitchell warns that "you want to be the hero of your own story." Where do you take credit for surviving when the credit belongs to Christ?
4. Peter's prayer was three words: "Lord, save me" (v. 30). What short, honest prayer do you need to pray this week, and who will you tell?

THIS WEEK

Read Matthew 14:22-33 beside Psalm 77 each day. In your storm, pray Pastor Mitchell's five truths: "The Lord led me here," "the Lord is praying for me," "the Lord will come to me," "the Lord will grow me," and "the Lord will see you through." If the storm is your own doing, confess it to Him and to one believer you trust.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You put us in the boat, and You pray for us on the mountain. When the wind is against us, come to us over the waves. When we sink, catch us. Forgive us for wanting to be the hero. You went under the waves for us at the cross and rose again. Grow us in seeing who You are, the Son of God. In Your name, amen.

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