

Matthew 8:23-27
Fear Not
(The King and His Kingdom)

The albatross, is a majestic seabird with the longest wingspan of any bird,

A)The albatross spends 18 months at sea, touching down only on water, which causes them to lose their ability to make smooth earth-landings.

B)As a result when they return to the nest to lay their eggs they come in like a drunken sailor, tumbling, skidding, crashing

1)which has earned them the nickname gooney birds.

C)The interesting thing about these majestic seabirds is they actually need strong storm winds to keep them aloft.

1)In calm seas, they are virtually unable to get airborne.

D)Consistently smooth weather conditions prevent albatross migration from the Southern Hemisphere.

They need the storms: Guess what so do we!

A) **een said** All of us are either Heading into a Storm – Already in the middle of one or heading out of a storm!

C)The storms are what help us learn to **soar in our faith!**

B)The storms expand our knowledge of God and our experience with the sufficiency of His Grace –
1)His power and His love!

C)In our text today: We find the Disciples in a horrendous storm!

1)They experience the power of Jesus in a way that leaves them wondering – Who is this Man!

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

26 But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked

the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

King and Kingdom.....

A)New Section the Power of the King – Power to heal sickness!

B)Wednesday night: power over the impossible

1)His heart for the wayward – why the disciples didn’t fast

C)Today - Power over the forces of nature – Power to still a storm.

Storms are normal part of the Christian life!

A)Storms are when normal weather patterns get disturbed

B)We don’t like when things get disturbed, right? – Creatures of habit!

C)When my wife and I go out to eat – I usually order the same thing: I know what I like –

1)Different restaurant – 2-3 items – always get

D) Never surprised but also never disappointed

E)My wife on the other hand – she likes to experiment

1)Sometimes she is disappointed

F)I don’t like this – want to try it – NO!

1)Then she tries to eat some of mine – what do you think you’re doing

Well Storms happen when normal weather patterns get disturbed

A)Today in our text we will see a storm – came up without warning.

B)Rocked the boat – **ROCKED** their faith.

1))The same thing is true in our lives as well –We all experience storms

C)Often times they spring up without warning:

1)You lose your Job – Storm

2)Financial Crisis

3)Death in the family

Enduring storms – They LINGER – never seem to end!

A)Prodigal son or daughter – Storm –

B)**Prodigal parents** – storm for the kids

C)Relationship gone sour!

Sometimes when we are going through a storm – What did I do wrong?

A)Or We think that of others -
What did they do wrong {Sin/ cursed / cloud

B)True there are storms of Correction: Jonah

1)Jonah found himself in one of those

C)Go to Nineveh – Runs opposite direction –
Finds a ship to take him in the opposite direction

D)**The Devil can open doors too!** – Praying for
God to open a door – well how know it is the Lord

Jonah on the boat – God sent a storm – not to punish or destroy Jonah

A)but to correct him – Loved him and pursued him

B)God did what HE needed to do to get Jonah
where he needed to be

1)God loved Jonah and had a plan for Him

C)Today perhaps you are in rebellion to God – He sent a Storm – He loves you and is after you

1)Trying to get your attention – Get you where you need to be – carry out His plan for you.

Storms of Invention: Our own doing - You created

A)Our not seeking God and making stupid decisions – resulted – storm of our own making

B)Some of you might be in that kind of storm –
you have worked hard to put yourself there.

1)Dealing with the Consequences

But there are also storms of Instruction: Storms that are about Revelation

A)God is going to show up – blow our minds -

B)That is what is happening with the disciples in
this moment –

Note The scene really starts in V. 18 And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side.

A)That point is important to the story! Keep in
the back of your mind.

B)The journey gets interrupted by two men –
looked at 2 weeks ago in our through the Bible
study in Matthew Wed nights

C)Pick it up in V.23

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves.

The Sea of Galilee is really a large freshwater lake – located 633 ft below sea level.

A)The Lake is 33 miles in circumference –
13 miles long and 8 miles wide.

B)Slightly bigger than that in the time of Jesus –
the water has receded considerably in parts

C)Now Josephus the Jewish historian tells us that
on a normal day in Jesus time - there would be
close to 300 fishing boats on the Lake

Directly to the north, of it is Mount Hermon the peak of which is 9,280 feet above sea level,

A)Mt Herman gets so cold it can be skied in the
winter.

B)Here is what can Happen:

1)Cold air descends from Mount Hermon through
a small ravine in the northern part of the valley,
which funnels into the Sea of Galilee.

C)As the cold air strikes the hot air below, it
creates turbulence, and storms can erupt in
seconds.

1)Waves mount up, which in recent times have been
recorded at higher than twenty-five feet.

Now when it says: . 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves.

A)The word for TEMPEST is Seismos we get our
English word seismic from it – **to measure earthquakes**

B)It is interesting that on the other side Jesus is
going to have an encounter with a Demon

1)Some commentators suggest this storm was
Demonic in nature

C)Especially because when Jesus finally does wake up and address the storm –He says to it/ **Be Muzzled.**

So Picture this scene: This takes place after a long day of ministry.

A)Jesus is physically exhausted. – He says to His disciples – **lets cross over – lets go to the other side.**

Aa)Now at least four of the Disciples were fishermen by profession – **so they were used to being on this lake – used to random storms**

B)**They get into the Boat:** I am sure that Peter and some of the other fisherman disciples – were like – we got you Jesus

1)You are now stepping into our territory – Boats – Lakes

C)You just relax and leave it to us! – Sure Jesus was smiling as he nodded –

V.24b But He was asleep.

A)Speaks of two things - #1 His Humanity – He was tired

B)This encourages me – Jesus knows what it is like to be Physically exhausted. – He knew Physical Fatigue

C)That should comfort you – long day – wiped out – done – Jesus knows what that is like.

1)**Fatigue, Hunger, Grief** – He is a High Priest who can sympathize with our weaknesses-

2)HUMAN LIKE US!

But it also speaks #2 of HIS Deity!

A)How do you sleep in a storm – well you either know the one who controls the storms

B)Or you are the one who controls the storm!

C)Jesus **fit category #2 – He controlled the storm**

So Jesus is fast asleep and the wind starts to pick up

A)At first the fishermen among the Disciples are like – We’ve got this.

B)John says something like - Peter you get up front – I will steer! No need to panic

C)But the wind keeps blowing harder – the waves are getting bigger –

1)Pretty soon the boat is tossing all over the place AND Jesus is still sound asleep {TIREDD!!!!

D)WELL - Now even the Sailors in the group are starting to panic

Finally they wake up Jesus and- “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

A)You know it is a bad storm **when fishermen are waking up a carpenter** for Help.

B)Catamaran story: You want to go out in this

1)Roy: Pauley Shore – Far out man

C)Flying – Hit so hard the mast stuck to the bottom

Well this was a bad storm: Even the fisherman are scarred

A)Mark’s gospel says they woke Jesus up and said: **Don’t you care that we are going to perish.**

B)That is often our reaction when we find ourselves in a storm –

1)Lord you don’t care about me – if you did – would not be here.

C)We question His love – His heart – His care

The Storm didn’t wake Jesus up but the pathetic prayer of his disciples did.

A)Lord we are perishing – don’t you care.

B)Note: He gets up and rebukes his disciples:

²⁶ **But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?”**

1)Why are you so – fearful? – uh because we are about to die!

C) Catch this: the problem was not that they woke Jesus up.

1)The problem was HOW – THEY WOKE HIM UP!

D)You don’t care about us

Why are you Fearful? YOU TODAY!

A) FEAR IS THE OPPOSITE OF FAITH! And Faith is the opposite of fear!- They are mutually exclusive.

B) Faith and fear cannot dwell in the same heart!

1) If you have fear it is because it has overtaken your FAITH! **Your faith is being shaken.**

C) BUT If you have faith it will banish your fear!

D) I want to give you 3 reasons why the Disciples should not have been afraid

1) Which are the same reasons we should not be afraid – when a storm hits

#1 Jesus said: let's cross over to the other side.

A) SO Jesus led them into this storm.

B) They are in a storm – but they are also in the CENTER OF GOD'S WILL FOR THEM!

C) Interesting that this story is recorded in 3 gospels.

1) **Here are your storm instructions** – I am going to give it to you 3 times so you don't miss it!

But the very fact that Jesus said lets cross over should have caused them to know - we are going to make it

A) Lets wake him up and see what he wants us to do!

B) So too in our lives- Phil 1:6 *being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ*

C) He did not promise an easy trip, but He did promise a guaranteed arrival at their destination.

Jude 24 *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,*

Not going to leave you hanging – not going to leave you out to dry – He will finish the work

A) He will get you to the THE OTHER SIDE

B) No half finished projects in His care

C) We have many right? – HOUSE / work

1) I have written 2 books - But I have 4 half written books

So in the storm – we never want to ask – WHY?

A) Lord why is this happening – don't you love me

B) Ask – what do you want me to learn?

1) What do you want me to do?

C) #1 Jesus said: let's cross over to the other side.

Jesus led them into this storm.

1) In the storm but also in the center of His will!

#2 JESUS was with them in the Storm:

A) He was there: - They were not abandoned

B) So too He is with you – **"I will never leave you nor forsake you so that we may boldly say the Lord is my help – I will not fear."** Hebrews 13:5,6

C) A woman said to D.L. Moody, "I have found a wonderful promise!" she quoted Psalm 56:3, **"When I am afraid, I will trust in Thee."**

D) Moody responded "Let me give you a better one," & he quoted Isaiah 12:2, **"Behold God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid."**

Are you In a Storm?

A) Jesus is there – He is with you in the boat! – NOT ALONE – NOT ABANDONED !

B) A REVELATION IS around the corner

#3 Jesus was asleep – He was at Rest!

A) Guys I have news for You / **our Lord is at Rest / Sitting on the throne**

B) Listen Jesus is not up in Heaven Pacing back & forth when it relates to your life - or the storm - you are in. **BITING HIS NAILS**

C) He is at rest - **because He is in control** - Nothing passes into my life w/ out His knowledge - He is praying - **ever lives to make intercession**

D) Since He is at REST we should be AT REST
!!!! 1)Because Jesus was in the boat sleeping
the disciples should have been at rest

A Lesson from Clay:

A)Often when a potter is working with clay – in order for the clay to be perfected it has to go into the fire.

B)Interesting is before the vessel is put into the fire it is first encased in some stronger material and carefully sealed up

C)GREAT PICTURE – We have been encased in the Lord – stronger than us / Sealed w/ the Spirit

V.26 Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. 27 So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Jesus rebukes the wind and waves – Every gospel it says: and there was a great calm. -

A)Literally – the sea was beaten back to levelness.

B)No wind – perfect glass – water skiers dream conditions

C)They marveled - **Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”**

D)IN THE storm came a greater revelation of His power – His sovereignty over all things!

E)Next time: Jesus says go to the other side:
Storm – they are straining at rowing!

Your Storm: He has got you – with you – His loving arms are around you – TRUST HIM – Fear Not!