

Matthew 14:22-36
Our Storm - His Sidewalk
(The King and His Kingdom)

The Scene in Matthew 14 begins with the events that led to the beheading of John the Baptist -

WED

A)SO The day begins in sorrow: Jesus gets the news that John the Baptist – His cousin HAS been beheaded.

B)So Jesus responds by wanting to get some alone time **V.13 Departed to a deserted place by himself**

1)Reflect / Grieve – Consider / Pray

C)The other gospel accounts tell us the disciples are with him too – but it seems he wants to be alone

D) But they get into a boat – head across the Sea of Galilee - But the crowd is going to follow!

E) When Jesus lands on the shore in Bethsaida – He steps out of the Sea of Galilee into a Sea of Humanity

1) **10-15 thousand people are waiting!**

F)Jesus feeds the Multitude: Powerful story – look at the death of JB and the feeding **Wed night**

Pick up the story today in after the feeding V.22
22 Immediately Jesus **made His disciples get into the boat** and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. 23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, **He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.**

Now when evening came, He was alone there.
24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, **for the wind was contrary.**

25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.

27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

28 And Peter answered Him and said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”

29 So He said, “Come.” And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go

to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!”

31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

34 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, 36 and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

So the Disciples are sent across the Lake AND Jesus withdraws from them – heads up to a Mtn ALONE ! TO PRAY!!!!

A)Jesus prayed after a busy day of ministry – not just before

B)Our tendency –Pray before – rest after –

Consider his vantage point: Mtn looking down at the sea – See’s the storm – Boat – Struggling

A)V.24 – The Wind was contrary - **Mark says they were straining against the wind.**

B)What a Beautiful Picture of our High priest.

1)Jesus doing right now –Heb. 7:25 High Priest who lives to make intercession for us.

C) He is always praying for you. In the midst of the storms!

This story teaches us several things:
#1 God sometimes sends us into Storms!

A)Jesus told them to cross over. V.22 HE MADE THEM get into the boat

B)Did Jesus know as a man the storm was coming?

1)Debatable – He knows now in our lives

C)Think about this: **They head out in COMPLETE obedience to Jesus direction –**

1)**but they end up in a storm**

D)**The WIND IS IN THEIR FACE!!!**

E) **That is not supposed to happen right?**

1) Walking in obedience to Jesus – everything is supposed to go smoothly. – Not storms

I Hear this all the time- Pastor Rob – I am doing all the right things – Made changes –

A) Why is this happening to me?

B) Or I am doing exactly what the Lord told me to do – why is the wind in my face?

1) Instead of at my back?

C) I have had those thoughts myself.

1) We naturally think – Doing God's will it is supposed to be easy!

Children of Israel have left Egypt – they are in perfect obedience – believing God – take them to the Promised land {Miracles / Plagues – Obvious

A) No sooner are they out of Egypt – they run into a jam.

B) Boxed in at the Red Sea – they are trapped

1) **Mt Pi Hahiroth / Mt Migdol / Back Red Sea**

C) They do what we so often do – Start complaining – Moses – what are you doing – brought us here to die!

D) **But God will do that at times** – Allow us and even send us at times into circumstances where we are over our heads!

E) But in the midst of that time we can rest assured God is with us – Watching over us.

1) **Our High Priest is praying for us**

So #1 Jesus sent them ...ended up in a Storm

#2 God sometimes delays His rescue.

A) V.23 tells us that when evening came: **talking probably 6 or 7 o'clock – at night.**

B) V.25 says that Jesus waited until the **4th watch of the night which is after 3am to come to them.**

C) Talking 8-9 hrs – they are on the sea for 9 hrs – most of it in a storm –

D) John says they were **half way across** – Matthew says V.24 they **were in the middle** –

1) Too far to turn back

E) Been to Israel – sea of Galilee is a big lake

1) It was a bit bigger in Jesus' day – but – you can see the other side

Picture this scene they are rowing – they are making progress – suddenly the wind picks up

A) Rowing – Straining – but they are not making any progress – **sort of stuck**

B) Rip tide – swimming in but you are not getting anywhere – EXHAUSTING – STUCK

C) Maybe you feel that way today – **Stuck in your marriage – stuck in a trial** –

D) Jesus doesn't seem to be helping you

Why did Jesus wait so long?

A) Why didn't he come to the rescue right away?

B) Is He being cruel? Does He like to see his kids squirm. **AND SUFFER?- NO**

C) This is the big mistake that we make – When God delays His coming – we think – he has abandoned us.

1) Nothing could be further from the truth.

D) His delays are not denials- **HE IS WORKING**

I can think of a couple of reasons WHY JESUS DELAYED

A) Several of the disciples were seasoned **Seamen**

B) Sea of Galilee was known for storms that could come out of no where.

1) Break between the Mts – Wind shoot – funnel

C) **The seamen in the group were used to battling these type of storms.**

1) Perhaps Jesus waited until they had exhausted all of their human effort.

D) Sometimes the Lord will do that with us – **Especially if you are a fighter.**

1) Storm comes – you buckle down – pull yourself up by the boot straps – **MAKE IT THROUGH**

E) **They were in a situation that they were completely familiar with that was becoming unmanageable.**

F) Sometimes the Lord waits until we come to the end of ourselves.

- 1) "When a man comes to the end of himself, he comes to the beginning of God."

Another reason why Jesus might have delayed his rescue was to allow these men to develop their spiritual muscles. **God is a SMART PARENT**

A) In Matthew 8 – Wed night we saw them in a storm – **where they panicked** – Jesus was sleeping – **Lord don't you care.....DIE**

B) Jesus **rebuked the wind and the waves** – and then he rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith.

C) So perhaps this time – He delayed to let them work through their faith a little.

I can see some of the disciples – suggesting – lets turn around and go back. – CUT AND RUN!!!

A) The others saying – No Jesus told us to cross over – so we need to cross over –

B) So **they were straining at Rowing** – Heave – Ho – Heave – Ho – Hang in there.

C) Jesus perhaps watches as they are building their spiritual muscles – he sent us – we are in his will

1) Lets just keep pressing forward

D) He is allowing them to build up their spiritual muscles

We do the same thing with our kids –

A) We want them to grow up – develop – they fall down – not racing to pick them up.

B) Let them struggle a little – Only way they are going to grow.

C) Only way they will develop their muscles – and learn to walk or swim or whatever.

1) Don't bail – (**bail them out**) – let them fail - important how they grow

When I was a kid – bigger – tall for my age – but most of the kids in my neighborhood – a few years older – picked on a lot.

A) One day: Squared off – Parents – chicken fight Grew up in Santa Ana ok – Rough there {bets

B) My dad says - fight him or fight me. {one shot
1) Never backed down again - Confidence

C) Next time: **One shot** – never again!!!!

God wants us to grow up!

A) **If Storms are always wiping you out** – ready to throw in the towel – cut and run { **Not learning**

B) He wants us to learn how to put on the armor of God and stand and fight and battle.

C) He is using the storm to grow us up –

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-3

#3 Storms are an opportunity to see the Glory of God. Jesus DID come to them!

A) When the timing was right – Jesus came to them **WALKING ON THE SEA!**

B) The storm became an opportunity for them to see His power over the storm.

C) Here is what they discovered – "**The waves that were over their heads, were under His feet!**"

D) **Their storm was His sidewalk** – like one of those people movers at the airport – got him there quicker!

E) That is the way that it always is – the storm that is over your head –

1) didn't take Him by surprise and in reality **YOUR STORM is UNDER HIS FEET!**

Israel was boxed in – Mt Pi Hahiroth – Mt Migdol Back to the Red Sea – Pharaoh is coming

A) God parted the waters! –

B) They saw the Providence of God – providing a way of escape.

C) They saw the power of God – destroyed their enemies.

D) That is what the Storms do.

1) They provide an opportunity for us to see the hand of God in a way that we would not normally

GREAT EXAMPLE OF THAT

The Storm becomes a platform for God's glory to be displayed – Strength in weakness

Joni Erickson Tada

**Writer, Singer, Painter – No one would know!
Now she has an International Ministry.**

Joni can I be glorified in your weakness.

POWER MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

#4 Storms can become great moments of Faith

A) Peter – Lord if that is you Come

B) Peter walked on Water

C) Here is where I want to stop and talk to the Men – the dads in the group here.

D) God wants us to be men who are willing to walk on water!

Here is what I mean by that – He wants us to be men who are willing to step out of our comfort zones

A) Through His power – Allow God to do something amazing with our lives – through our lives

B) The Safest thing for Peter to do – was stay in the boat

1) It was comfortable –

C) Author John Ortberg gives these insights in his book – “If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat.”

There is always a call.

A) God asks an ordinary person to engage in an act of extraordinary trust, that of getting out of the boat.

There is always fear.

A) God has an inextinguishable habit of asking people to do things that are scary to them.

B) It may be a fear of inadequacy

1) Moses said I can't talk - “I am slow of speech and slow of tongue,”

C) It may be a fear of failure

1) The 10 spies... promised land: Giants - “The land we explored devours those who live in it,”

D) Fear of the unknown:

1) But one way or another, there will ALWAYS be fear.

What would you guess is the most common command in Scripture? FEAR NOT!!!!

A) Lloyd Ogilvie notes there are 366 “fear not” verses in the Bible –

B) One for every day of the year, including one for leap year!

There is always reassurance.

A) God promises His presence : an angel assures Gideon (“The Lord is with you, Mighty Warrior!”

B) God promises to be with us: -

I will never leave you nor forsake you.” 6 So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear.

What can man do to me?” Hebrews 13:5

C) God also promises to give whatever gifts are needed to fulfill His assignment

¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.- Philippians 4:19

D) God is into using the ordinary to do the extraordinary

E) Moses: I will help you speak – Joshua – I will give you the land – Gideon – I will be with you

So Always a Call – but always Fear – always a reassurance - There is always a decision.

A) Will you get out of the boat? – Will you take the step of faith

B) Sometimes, as with Moses and Gideon, people say yes to God's call.

C) Sometimes, as with the ten frightened spies or the rich young ruler who spoke with Jesus, they say no.

1) But always people must decide.

D) But those who say Yes –

There is always a changed life.

A) Those who say yes to God's call don't walk the walk perfectly – not by a long shot.

B)But because they say yes to God, they learn and grow even from their failures.

1)And they become part of His mission to redeem and change the world

C)Dad – don't be afraid to be spiritual Risk takers

D)Don't be a afraid to put it all on the line – Step out of your Comfort Zone

David went out against Goliath – risky – crazy – most of the people there didn't think he was coming back

A)David had men – who were Giant killers

B)Saul didn't – No giants – neither did his men

C)Men you want your sons to slay some giants – You need to slay some giants

1)You want your sons to not be mastered by their passions – Are you mastered by your passions

D)Son's not crippled by fears – Are you

1)Afraid to really step out – afraid to really trust God

Don't be a afraid to put it all on the line – Step out of your Comfort Zone

A)Don't be afraid to fail -

B) Failure does not shape you; the way you respond to failure shapes you.

C)I love Peter – The dude walked on Water

1)Yes he sank – but he walked on water

D)Peter would later get out of another boat

1)The Day of Pentecost – Spoke – Focus was Jesus
REVIVAL HAPPENED

E)CHURCH WAS BORN

Here is what we learn from Peter and his Failure:

A)He took his eyes off of Jesus and focused on the wind and the waves

B)Step out and keep your eyes on Jesus

#5 Storms lead to moments of Worship.

A)Matthew's account of this story ends in a very enlightening way.

Matthew 14:33

Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

B)After the storm they worshipped! Here is what is interesting – they had never worshipped him before as a group.

C)Search the gospel records – you won't find a time where that took place amongst the disciples

1) Not when he heals the leper

2) Forgives the woman caught in adultery

3) Raises Lazarus from the dead.

4) Preaches to the masses

5) Fed 5,000 or the 4,000

D) But it happens here – When He rescues them

“When you recognize God as the Creator, you will admire Him. When you discover His strength, you will rely on Him. But when He saves you, then you worship Him.” Max Lucado:

The natural reaction when God comes through is to worship Him –

A)We need to learn to worship him in the storm

B)When God opened up the red sea – Israel worshipped on the other side –

1)Moses wrote a Song – **they did a dance**

C)How much greater – would it had been if they worshipped on the other side – before the miracle

Worship as a Reaction vs Worship as a Lifestyle

Remember Acts 16 Paul and Silas in Prison in Philippi – dark dingy Midnight – they start to worship

A)Praising God not for the storm – the trial – but in the midst of it.

B)**Something radical happened** – Prison doors opened miraculously

1)And when the **jailor woke up** and seeing the doors opened – was going to kill himself –

C) **Held responsible if prisoners escaped** - Paul called out – Don't kill yourself – we are all still here.

D) In other words it no longer mattered to Paul and Silas – the objective was No longer to get out of prison

1) THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENJOY THE LORD AND TO GIVE HIM PRAISE.

E) They were *so caught up in the moment* that when their prison doors opened they didn't even think of leaving.

F) And neither did any of the other prisoners

1) Holy moment – A miraculous moment When ?

When they worshipped in the midst of the storm!

Difference between worship as a reaction or an event and worship as a lifestyle.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service.

Daily life on the Altar – Your will – Your way -

Whatever comes – you can worship!!!