

## Calming the Storm Within Matthew 8:23-27

### I. Life is full of storms.

- A. Storms of all sorts (health, financial, relational)
  - 1. Storms can take us by surprise.
    - (a) They rise up suddenly, "from out of nowhere."
    - (b) Jesus didn't give a storm warning before his nap.
    - (c) We are just one phone call away from a storm.
- B. Storms can feel very threatening.
  - 1. The waves are rocking our boat.
    - (a) They are sweeping over the boat.
    - (b) They seem like they will overwhelm us.
  - 2. We are all aware that water can take us out.
    - (a) Fear can grip us.
    - (b) Fear for our own life. Fear for loved ones.
- C. The disciples were terrified.
  - 1. These fishermen knew the danger of a raging sea.
  - 2. Meanwhile, Jesus is catching a few zzz's in the back.
    - (a) He is sleeping as if it's a sunny day, gentle breeze.
    - (b) Brahms' lullaby is playing in Jesus' dream.
- D. So, the disciples wake up Jesus.
  - 1. "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"
    - (a) They are convinced that they are about to die.
    - (b) They also think they need to alert Jesus.
    - (c) Lord, we are in mortal peril.
    - (d) We are going to "sleep with the fish."
  - 2. Jesus asks a question, and then answers it.
    - (a) "Why are you so fearful, O you of little faith?"
    - (b) You are fearful because your faith is small.
    - (c) Faith is trust.
  - 3. Then he rebukes the wind and the waves.
    - (a) "And it was completely calm."
  - 4. The disciples are amazed. "What kind of man is this?"

### II. What does Jesus know that the disciples don't know?

- A. That nothing can happen to him until it is God's time.
  - 1. Jesus would sometimes say, "My time has not yet come."
    - (a) There are several words translated, "time."
    - (b) Chronos: chronological time, length of time.
    - (c) Chairios: a set time, a particular point in time.
  - 2. Chairios is used for God's preordained time.
    - (a) Jesus was under God's favor and care until his chairios.
    - (b) Until then, no one or no thing could touch him. He was secure.
  - 3. The disciples are with Jesus.
    - (a) They are under that protection, too.
- B. Jesus also knew the Son of Man has authority.

- 1. Even authority over the wind and the waves.
- C. But the apostles don't fully understand who Jesus is.
  - 1. They don't understand that they are under God's protection/favor.
  - 2. They have no control over the storm, so they feel threatened.
    - (a) They think Jesus is asleep on the job.
    - (b) "Wake up, Jesus! We're going to drown!"
  - 3. But God is in total control.
    - (a) The disciples are as safe as Jesus is.

### III. Jesus sees the problem clearly.

- A. The real problem is not the storm around them.
  - 1. The real problem is the storm within them.
    - (a) It is the raging storm of emotions from lack of faith.
    - (b) The real problem is a lack of trust.
  - 2. The same is true for us.
    - (a) We react to the storms of life with an internal storm.
    - (b) The storm inside us is a storm of fear.
    - (c) "What if...?"
    - (d) "That will be horrible, excruciating, unbearable."
    - (e) Have you heard the song, "Fear, he is a liar...?"
  - 3. Notice that the apostles say, "We're going to drown!"
    - (a) That is not true. They are not going to drown.
    - (b) But their fear has them convinced that it is true.
    - (c) But they're not taking into account who is with them.
  - 4. Jesus is with them, but not just in the physical sense.
    - 1. He is with them in relationship.
      - (i) He is on their side. They have his favor.
- B. There is so much that we have no control over.
  - 1. In our own lives. In the lives of our loved ones.
    - (a) But we follow a God who is both sovereign and good.
    - (b) Nothing is ever out of control for God.
  - 2. The truth is, God's got us and will bring us through.
    - (a) Look what God said to Israel (Isaiah 30:15).
    - (b) "in quietness and trust is your strength."
    - (c) "but you would have none of it."
  - 3. The Gift of Hard Things by Mark Yaconelli; pp. 90-91.
  - 4. We need to get our eyes off of the circumstances and onto our God.
    - (a) He is always good!
    - (b) He is always faithful!
    - (c) He never slumbers or sleeps (Psalm 121:1-4).
    - (d) The Lord has you in every situation (Psalm 121:7-8).
    - (e) Both now and forevermore.
  - 5. Pastor Andy Attis: "You don't need smaller problems. You need a bigger Jesus."
    - (a) Bigger because you trust in who he really is!