

Every person faces storms at one time or another in the journey through life. People in the Bible like Noah, Jonah and Paul were tossed in wet storms. Others faced different kinds of physical or spiritual storms. This study explores concepts gleaned from Jesus' meeting his disciples on the stormy Sea of Galilee.

Jesus had spent the day near the Sea of Galilee. Toward the end of the day, Jesus had his disciples help him as he fed a multitude with a boy's lunch.

*Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone...* vv. 22, 23

### **1. Storms Find Us Looking for Help**

*but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.* v. 24

The Sea of Galilee is known for sudden storms. Even the seasoned fishermen struggled with the storm surrounding them and the angry waters beneath them. Exhausted from the long day working with Jesus and the battle of the storm, they were at the end of their strength. Like many other people in stormy times, their minds raised unanswerable questions. The longer they battled, the more they realized they were fighting against something over their heads.

Matthew makes a point of telling us Jesus was praying. Paul reminds us the Holy Spirit intercedes for God's people (*Romans 8:26, 27*).

### **2. Storms Expose God at Work**

*During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.* v. 25

Jesus does not always arrive when we think he should, but he comes when we need him most.

*When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It is a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.* v. 26

Exhaustion and superstition feed fears. The disciples identified what they saw through what they had seen and heard throughout life.

*But Jesus immediately said to them, "Take courage. It is I. Don't be afraid."* v. 27

The disciples failed to recognize Jesus because they were not expecting to see him.

### **3. Storms Invite Us to React in Faith**

*"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "Tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said.* vv. 28, 29

Jesus promises to be with his people all the time (*Matthew 28:20*).

*Then, Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"* vv. 29, 30

Storms generate fear, and fear owns people. The longer the storm lasts, the more people are forced to consider what is happening within them and what it could mean.

### **4. Storms Reveal the Nature of Our Faith**

*Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"* v. 31

Storms destroy things in their path and disrupt life.

C. S. Lewis: God whispers in our pleasures but shouts in our pain.

Afflictions find people's weak points and expose what needs attention. Meanings in life are not found in the events themselves but in our response to those events.

### **5. Storms Remind Us to Trust God**

*And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."* vv. 32, 33

Eugene Peterson paraphrased *Blessed are the poor in spirit. You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you, there is more of God and His rule.* (*Matthew 5:3 The Message*)

We may face what appears to be impossible, but with hearts fixed on Jesus, we can make it through our storms.

