



In the Midst of a Storm

By Jeff Bedwell on May 18, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Mark 6

Mark covers a lot of ground in this single chapter. We read of the rejection of Jesus at Nazareth, the twelve being sent out with authority, the murder of John the Baptist, Jesus feeding the five thousand, and Jesus walking on the water and healing the sick.

The disciples experienced a lot of "spiritual highs" as they walked with Jesus. One vital reminder for all of us who walk with Jesus is that He knows how to prepare us for what He is preparing us for. He masterfully balances out the highs and the lows, the breakthroughs and the burdens, to shape our lives for His glory, our good and the blessing of others.

After the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus intentionally sent His disciples into a storm. Despite all they had experienced, the disciples still had much to learn before they were prepared for the life Jesus had called them to. Mark comments, *"for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened"* (vs. 52). We, too, can sometimes forget yesterday's lessons about God's faithfulness and power in the middle of today's storms.

Some important reminders: Jesus sent the disciples into the storm. You can be in the middle of a storm and the center of God's will at the same time. As the disciples were struggling in the storm, Jesus was praying. What an encouragement to know that right now, Jesus *"always lives to make intercession"* for us (Hebrews 7:25).

Jesus saw them and came to them (vs. 48). Jesus knows exactly where you are and what you are going through. He will not leave you alone. He comes to us in the middle of the storms of life. He comes as one who has authority. He walked on the water and stilled the storm. As the old saying goes, "what is over my head is under His feet"!

Draw on the lessons of yesterday to strengthen and encourage you for the challenges of today. In the midst of the storms, do not forget to look for Jesus -- He is present and active! Perhaps today we need to hear Him say to us: *"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid"* (vs. 50).

PRAYER: Father, forgive me for my short memory when it comes to recalling Your power, love and faithfulness to me and many others through the years and through the pages of scripture. Help me look to You in fresh trust and obedience for this day whether it leads me to a mountaintop or the middle of a storm."

TOMORROW'S READING: Mark 7

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