

What Manner of Man is This!

Luke 8: 22-26

It has often been said that we are all at a particular point in life at all times: we are either in the midst of a storm, coming out of a storm, or there is a storm looming on our horizon. I'm sure that you would have to agree that storms are just part of living. We don't enjoy them, but we all must face them. You may be in the midst of a storm today, or things may seem fine at the moment, but they can change in an instant.

It is no secret that we are living in difficult times. These are the most trying times that I can remember. It seems as if we have been in the midst of a storm within our nation for a long time. We face the storm of terrorism, a storm in the financial markets, a storm that rages with the advance of immorality and apathy among men. We hear of folks every week who are facing a storm due to physical afflictions.

Life is filled with storms. So, if we all have them, what can we do to make it through them? If we can't avoid them, we must learn to survive them. Let me say, there is hope, even in the midst of a storm. For those who will but look to Jesus, there is an Anchor that is sure. If we are to survive, and even prosper, in the storms of life, we must learn to trust in Jesus. A woman said to D.L. Moody, "I have found a wonderful promise!" and she quoted [Ps.56:3 - What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.](#) "Let me give you a better one," said Moody; and he quoted [Is.12:2 - Behold God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.](#)

Clearly the disciples found themselves in the midst of a storm, but they had to learn to trust Jesus. As we look at this account, and ponder the storms of life, I want to preach on: [What Manner of Man is This!](#) If we can learn the [abiding lessons](#) that the disciples learned, we can navigate life's stormy sea with new found hope and direction.

I. The Truth of the Storm (22-23) – Our text reveals some truths concerning storms that are consistent with each and every storm we face.

A. Storms are Unpredictable (22) – We find a description of the time that this storm arose. [Now it came to pass on a certain day.](#) We find nothing in the text that reveals there was anything special or even controversial about this day. It is described as only a [certain day](#), just an ordinary day.

- We do know, according to [Mark 4:1-33](#), that it had been a productive day. Jesus had entered a boat by the shore of Galilee and taught a multitude of people. This was nothing unusual. Jesus often took time to teach the multitudes. I'm sure that the disciples felt it had been an

ordinary day with the Lord. But, it was on this [certain day](#) that the storm arose. These men had no way of knowing in a few short hours they would fear for their lives.

- Storms of life are unpredictable. They come to us on [certain days](#), days that we have absolutely no idea that anything will arise. There is no way to predict them, so why be consumed with worry?

B. Storms are Unpreventable (22) – [Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.](#) Now don't go away thinking that I've said that we can live as we please without having to deal with the consequences of our choices. There are circumstances in our lives that we could and should avoid. However, there are some things we face in life that are absolutely unpreventable.

- Jesus went with the disciples into the ship. He gave the command to set sail to the other side. These men were in the will of the Lord. They had obeyed His command. They were simply doing what Jesus had asked them to do. The storm that these men faced had nothing to do with sin in their lives; it had nothing to do with their being disobedient to the Lord. The storm they were about to face was out of their hands. There was nothing prior or at the present time that could be done to avoid this storm.
- There will be times in our lives when we are faced with storms and trials of life that we can't do anything about. Job was an upright man and he was faced with a terrible storm. You can try and hide within the "shell" of life and still be faced with storms. They are simply unpreventable. Storms will come and we must endure them. [Jn.16:33 - These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.](#)

C. Storms are Unmistakable (23) – [But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy.](#) We've all had those seasons of discouragement or times when we just weren't happy with our current situation. Those are really not storms at all. When a storm comes, you will know. This storm hit suddenly, but there was no mistaking its ferocity. The winds began to blow, the waves began to rise, and the boat began to fill with water. [They were in jeopardy.](#) These men were in a perilous situation.

- Now I know that Jesus was on the boat. Even though He was asleep, He was in control. It is easy to see and understand that before or after the storm, but when we are in the midst of one, we too feel as if we will never make it. The point is this was a very real storm. It wasn't just a figment of their imagination. These men faced a dangerous situation.
- I'm sure that most of us could identify with the disciples. We have all faced situations in our lives that were very real. It may not have seemed like much to those around us, but to us we were in jeopardy. If we are to receive the help that we need from the Lord, then we must be ready and

able to identify those times when we need it. If you haven't been there, you will face an unmistakable storm. Sadly, many times we don't seek the Lord until we are faced with a storm.

I. The Truth of the Storm (22-23)

II. The Tempest of the Storm – This storm had the potential to do much damage to the ship and their lives. It was a strong storm that caused much concern. The physical effects were minimal compared to the spiritual and emotional effect that this storm caused. Let's consider how storms affect us.

A. They Affect our Focus (22b) – *and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.* Jesus had given the command to launch forth unto the other side. He was in the boat with them. I don't know about you, but I always want to be where the Lord is! These men were in the will of God. They had witnessed the power of Jesus before. They had seen Him heal the sick and raise the dead. They were convinced that He was the Christ, but yet they lost their focus. I'm sure that they were confident in the Lord's ability, but they failed to look to Him and looked at the storm instead.

- These are hard lessons to learn. Peter would make the same mistake again as he walked on the water. Who among us has not been guilty of allowing a storm to redirect our focus? It is within our nature to look at the storm rather than the Savior. In times like those we need to be reminded of whom we serve. He is the Creator. He is the Sovereign God who is in control of every situation. You will never face a storm that Jesus is not aware of and in complete control of!

B. They Affect our Faith (24a) – *And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish.* These men went to Jesus in fear. Mark records some additional information. *Mk.4:38 - And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awoke him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?* These men actually thought that Jesus wasn't concerned, that somehow He just didn't care. The faith that they had in Him was being tested and they were failing the test. They responded in fear rather than in faith.

- Now, before we get to critical, I am certain that we have all responded in the same way. There has never been a time when Jesus has failed us, but we are quick to forget His goodness and grace. We have all had those pity parties where we questioned if God still loved us. If He cared for me then why am I facing this situation? It isn't because the Lord doesn't love you or has forsaken you. He may just want you to depend more on Him. If you are saved, you are secure in Jesus. *Heb.13:5 - Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.* The word **leave** means "to let sink"; the

word **forsake** means “to abandon, to desert or leave”. Jesus won’t let you sink and He will never desert you!

C. They Affect our Fervency (24a) – **Master, we perish.** These were words of resignation and defeat in the face of the storm. They were on the boat with One they referred to as Master, but failed to see that He was Master of their storm. These men had been chosen of the Lord to serve Him, but they had given in to defeat. They felt as if this would be the end. They were prepared to give up and die.

- This will always be the case when we try to survive the storm on our own. When we lose our focus and our faith, we resign to defeat. Many have simply given up and are no longer serving the Lord due to a storm in life. If we focus on the storm rather than Jesus, we will lose our desire to continue. The storm is no place to abandon your faith or responsibilities to the Lord!

I. The Truth of the Storm (22-23)

II. The Tempest of the Storm

III. The Triumph of the Storm

A. They Regarded His Presence (22a, 24b) – Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: [24b] Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. Even though their faith was lacking, they never forgot that Jesus was in their midst. The storm was terrifying, but Jesus was still there. When it seemed all hope was lost, they turned to the Lord.

- It always makes a difference when He is in the midst. He is always there, but at times we fail to see it. When troubles come, seek the comforting presence of the Lord.

B. They Realized His Power (24b) – Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. When Jesus arose from His sleep, He confronted the storm. With the word of His mouth the winds ceased, the raging waves subsided, and there was a great calm.

- Jesus is the Master of the storm. He may allow us to go through them from time to time, but He is always in control. I recall reading about three Hebrew boys who faced a fiery storm, but in the midst of that storm was the Lord. He didn’t remove it, but He was in control of it!

C. They Recognized His Person (25b) – And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him. Upon calming the storm, the disciples made a profound discovery. The Lord was Master of their lives. He not only had power of death, disease, and despair, but He had power of the storms in their lives. They had witnessed His hand at work in the lives of others, but now they had received His touch. **What manner of Man is this!**

- No doubt these men never forgot that day. Jesus revealed Himself as One of absolute power and authority. Their faith in Him was confirmed even more. When storms come our way, we need to see the Person of Jesus. He is the One that we need to recognize. I rejoice for those times that I have been allowed to catch a glimpse of who He is!

D. They Received His Provision (26) – And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. What a statement we find here. Should there have been any doubt? The Lord had called upon them to set forth in the journey. He was with them in the boat. Jesus fully intended for them to make it to the other side, and they did!

- Storms of life will come. Many times they will be frightening and difficult to endure. In those times we must remember to whom we belong. The saved are going to make it to the other side! We'll never face a storm that will prevent our safe arrival. **Jn.10:28 - And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.** **2 Tim.1:12 - For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.**

Storms will come, but the saved have an Anchor that is sure. Are you struggling in a storm today? Is Jesus in your midst? Have you trusted Him in salvation? He stands ready to meet whatever need you may have. Come!