

# Finding Peace In The Storm

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We all face storms and regardless of the storm we are going through we need to be looking to Jesus as our security in the storm.

Storms can come in a variety of ways...**divorce or death, addictions or abandonment, sickness or sin, betrayal or bankruptcy.** THESE STORMS CAN LEAVE US SHATTERED AND WRECKED.

No matter the fierceness of the storm; the strength we can find in our Savior is never changing.

He desires to be a constant in our lives. We are never alone. He promises to never leave us or forsake us. God is the only one who can take away our fears and hurts. HE IS OUR SOURCE OF PEACE.

- What storms have struck your life?

Health Crisis

Financial Struggles

Death of a Loved One

Struggling Relationships

Failing or Failed Marriage

Lost Family/Friends

Addictions

Caregiving for Others

Depression or Anxiety

Wayward Child

Past Regrets

Infertility

- Can you think of times in your life when you were not staying in the Bible and walking closely with Jesus and your life started crumbling? What was your first instinct when chaos and hard times hit?
- Where do you most often try and find security?
- Read Psalms 55:1-2, 4-6, 8, 16-18, 22
- Read Psalms 143:1, 3-11
- Read Psalms 61:1-2, 4, 8
- What can you apply from these verses? Meditate on what God is speaking to you about personally. God uses His Word to give us direction and comfort. Rest peacefully in God's presence and promises today.

## 1. Constrained by Jesus - Matthew 14:22-24

He pressed the disciples to go away from Him while He stayed behind to pray.

### **Constrained – urged or compelled**

If Jesus needed this private, alone time to pray, how much more do we need it?

It was His plan for them to go through the storm...seemingly alone.

The storm hits us; it's difficult and hostile, and we get tired and weary. (Mark 6:48)

We are not spared from the storms though because God, in His sovereignty, already has us covered.

HE GOES BEFORE US!            HE SEES US!

If we never faced storms, we would never know the strength and peace of Jesus.

The Bible tells us in James that the trying of our faith worketh patience. We can only learn to have strong faith when it is strongly tested.

- Read James 1:2-8 and choose a verse to write out. How can this passage be applied to your situations today?

### 2. Cheered Up by Jesus – Matthew 14:25-27

In the midst of the storm Jesus comes walking on the water. He IMMEDIATELY talks to them and says “cheer up, fellas...it’s just me...nothing to be afraid of here.” (Mark 6:50)

Seek Jesus in some alone time. Pray for clarity in your thinking and wisdom in your actions/reactions and then CHEER UP because JESUS IS NEAR.

- Read Philippians 4:6-9 and write out verse 8. Do you need help in this area of your thoughts?
- Read Psalm 91:1-2. Write out these verses. Where can we find protection? Now read the rest of this Psalm. How comforting.
- Read Psalm 3. Who does our help come from?

### 3. Call to Jesus – Matthew 14:28-29

Courageous or Crazy? Jesus gives the same response He would give to anyone seeking Him in faith...**“Come”**. Jesus is willing for ALL to come to Him, but it is our choice.

### 4. Cry Out to Jesus - Matthew 14:30

Peter’s courage quickly turns to cowardness and he cries out to Jesus... **“save me”**.

- Read II Peter 3:9 and write it out.
- Read Jeremiah 33:3
- Read I Peter 5:7
- Read Matthew 11:28-30.

The first step towards true “peace” is salvation through Jesus. (John 14:6, 27)

*“Peace is a complete quietness of spirit. Knowing that your sins are forgiven and that you belong to Jesus Christ. When he saves you, you shouldn’t be afraid of anything. There is no room for anger or fear because you are so full of Jesus instead.” - Bible Truth Music - Bible Stories for Kids #1 - Jesus (A Savior Is Born)*

Because we can have salvation through the blood of Jesus (THE PRINCE OF PEACE) we can gain complete and free access to God in prayer. We can truly cry out to HIM. When we bring our every need to Him in prayer something spectacular happens... incomprehensible sweet peace. (Eph. 2:13-14, 18; Phil 4:6-7)

We know that no matter what comes our way that God is able!! He is in complete control of every area of our life that we allow Him to be. Jesus calms the storms around us and brings peace back into our lives.

It is about then that we start taking control back and begin sinking like Peter. As long as life seems good, we feel confident in our own strength and wisdom.

- Are you sinking in your storm?

CRY OUT! "**Lord, save me.**" – I need YOUR salvation and YOUR shelter.

When things are out of our control, they are never out of His control.

#### 5. Connected to Jesus - Matthew 14:31-32

Jesus responds to Peter’s cry by grabbing his hand immediately! The actions of Jesus were without hesitation.

- Would Jesus need to question your faith?

Jesus calmed His child before He calmed the storm.

Peter still had to walk through the storm to get into the safety of the ship. The difference was he was connected to Jesus! We have a promise, as a child of God, that He will never leave or forsake us.

#### 6. Celebrate Jesus – Matthew 14:33

When we put our faith in Jesus, His power is magnified through our storm. (Mark 6:51-52)

- Do you allow your hardships to bring Him honor or do you tend to forget how amazing He is and allow the circumstances to harden your heart?
- Can you worship Jesus in the storm and create a ripple effect of adoration for Him through your testimony in trials?
- Do others see your fears or your faith?

People are watching you.

- What are you showing them?
- Read John 15:5
- Read II Corinthians 4:14-18. Write out verse 16.
- Read Deuteronomy 20:4 and 31:6,8
- Read Isaiah 26:3-4
- Read Psalm 145:18-19, 2

7. Carried by Jesus – John 6:21

When Jesus is willingly received, He goes to work immediately.

When storms hit in our life, we all react in different ways.

- Sometimes we helplessly go from one make shift solution to another.
- Sometimes we find security in friends and family.
- Few times we have the peace to sleep through the storm.

The smartest thing we can do is run to the shelter and security that Jesus gives.

When morning comes, we look at the aftermath and realize all that He has kept us safe from.

- Read Psalm 4:8
- Read Psalm 30:5
- Read Proverbs 3:24-26
- Read Proverbs 30:5
- Read Philippians 4:13
- Which verse(s) did you need the most? Write them out.

Jesus is always close by, but He wont force Himself on us.

- He urges us to follow His call and accept His will for our life (the good and the bad).
- He wants to offer you cheer and courage in the midst of all the chaos.
- He desires for us to call on Him and to come to Him in faith.
- He is waiting for us to cry out to Him; first for salvation and continually for safety and shelter.
- He is so close to us in every situation, but we have to be willing to make the connection. (James 4:8)
- He is worthy of our worship and deserves our awe and celebration...He is the Prince of Peace.
- He is longing to be willingly received by us so that He may carry us to safety. (Psalm 91)

**Peace, Be Still...Jesus Is Near**