

LESSONS FROM THE STORM

John 6:15-21

(John 6:15-21), “When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. {16} And when even was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea, {17} And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was now dark, and Jesus was not come to them. {18} And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. {19} So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid. {20} But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid. {21} Then they willingly received him into the ship: and immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.”

(THIS MESSAGE WILL INCLUDE DETAILS FROM THE **PARALLEL PASSAGES** IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW and MARK)



S AFTER FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND, THE CROWD **BEGAN TO PRESS JESUS** to become king over Israel. At that point **JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES** to get in the **BOAT** and go over to other side of the Sea of Galilee (Matt 14:22). After their departure, Jesus went **UP THE MOUNTAIN TO PRAY**.

IMPORTANT DETAILS:

(1) **TWO GEOGRAPHICAL MARKERS** ARE TO BE NOTED. **THE TRADITIONAL SITE** IN ISRAEL where Jesus fed the FIVE THOUSAND IS NAMED **TABGHA**. **TABGHA** IS LOCATED ON THE **NORTHWESTERN SHORE** of the Sea of Galilee. If the miracle of feeding the multitude actually took place at Tabgha, then the disciples entered their boat on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee. From there they headed “**TOWARD CAPERNAUM**” (John 6:17). Capernaum was located about **3½ miles** east of Tabgha. Jesus also told His disciples to go before Him “**UNTO THE OTHER SIDE TO BETHSAIDA**” (Mark 6:45). The shoreline closest to Bethsaida was approximately **5 miles** east of Tabgha.

(2) **THREE TIME REFERENCES** ARE GIVEN in reference to feeding the five thousand:

1) **(Luke 9:12)**, “And when **THE DAY BEGAN TO WEAR AWAY**, . . .”

2) **(Mat 14:15)**, “And **WHEN IT WAS EVENING**, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and **the time is now past**; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals.”

THE MIRACLE PROBABLY BEGAN AROUND 6:00 P.M. IT WOULD HAVE **TAKEN AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME** for the disciples to have served food to so many people. It is **SAFE TO CONCLUDE** that **it was LATE EVENING** before the events related to that miracle were completed. As they entered their boat, dusk was about to give away to dark.

3) **(John 6:16-17)**, “And when **EVEN** was now come, his disciples went down unto the sea, {17} And entered into a ship, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And **IT WAS NOW DARK**, and Jesus was not come to them.”

S ONCE DARKNESS HAD SET IN, THE **CONDITION** OF THE SEAS RAPIDLY DIGRESSED:

C **(John 6:18)**, “And **THE SEA AROSE** by reason of **A GREAT WIND** that **BLEW**.”

C **(John 6:19 NKJV)**, “So when **THEY HAD ROWED ABOUT THREE OR FOUR MILES**, . . .”

C **(Mat 14:24 NASB)**, “But the boat was already **MANY STADIA AWAY FROM THE LAND**, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary.”

& **THE SEA OF GALILEE IS ROUGHLY 12 miles long by 7 miles wide.**

& Their boat had been blown off course and they were out in the middle of the sea rowing as hard as they could.

S **THEIR STRUGGLE LASTED LATE INTO THE NIGHT**

C **(Mat 14:25)**, “And in **THE FOURTH WATCH OF THE NIGHT** Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.” (Mark 6:48)

EACH NIGHT HAD FOUR WATCHES:

- 1ST — 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- 2nd — 9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
- 3rd — 12:00 - 3:00 a.m.
- 4th — 3:00 - 6:00 a.m.

IMPORTANT FACT: THE DISCIPLES HAD BEEN ON THE SEA for at least **6 HOURS**, and perhaps many more. They were rowing against the wind (Mark 6:48). **No avenue of escape** was available to them. What was the end of **an exhausting day** had turned into a **nightmare**.

THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN **WEARY! – WORN OUT! – WORN DOWN! – EXHAUSTED! – FATIGUED!**

- S UPON EXAMINATION OF THIS PASSAGE, we discover the disciples **WERE NOT in that storm BY ACCIDENT**. They were in that storm **BY DESIGN**. God had some **INVALUABLE LESSONS** to teach them.
- S **AS WE TRACE THE TRACKS** of the disciples through the storm on the Sea of Galilee, we will discover **VALUABLE STORM LESSONS** for ourselves. God teaches all of us **IN THE MIDST OF STORMS**.

CONSIDER **FOUR LESSONS FROM THE STORM:**

- I. **SOMETIMES GOD LEADS HIS CHILDREN INTO THE STORM**
- II. **GOD CARES FOR US IN THE STORM**
- III. **STORMS TEND TO BRING OUR WEAKNESSES TO THE SURFACE**
- IV. **GOD IS OFTEN SEEN FOR WHO HE IS BECAUSE OF A STORM**

I. SOMETIMES GOD LEADS HIS CHILDREN INTO THE STORM

(Mat 14:22), “And straightway JESUS **CONSTRAINED HIS DISCIPLES** to get into a ship . . . ”

(Mark 6:45), “And straightway HE **CONSTRAINED HIS DISCIPLES** to get into the ship, . . . ”

- S **“CONSTRAINED”** (an-ang-kad'-zo) MEANS **“TO COMPEL.”** Jesus **insisted** that His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to Bethsaida.

- S Unbeknownst to the disciples, Jesus had enrolled them in **A NON-ELECTIVE CLASS CALLED THE STORMS OF LIFE**. Those twelve men were CALLED **DISCIPLES** FOR A REASON. The word **disciple** means **learner**. They were about to learn **essential lessons** for life that could only be learned in the storm.

- S THE STORMS that God’s children experience CAN BE **CLASSIFIED IN ONE OF TWO CATEGORIES:**

- (1) **GOD ALLOWED STORMS**. *God allowed storms* must first pass through the **loving permission** of our heavenly Father before they can get to us. An element of **comfort** comes in knowing that difficulties cannot come our way except they first pass through God’s sovereign permission. It is comforting to know that our heavenly Father has only **our best interest** in mind. He would never let anything come our way except it be for our good.

JOB is an example of a God allowed storm. Satan asked God for permission to afflict Job and God gave him permission (Job 1:12). God did not afflict Job, Satan did. But Satan could only strike Job because God allowed him to do so. Many were the lessons that Job learned from his suffering. The truth be known, the following generations probably learned more about from Job’s storms than Job learned.

- (2) **GOD SENT STORMS**. God sometimes sends His child directly into the storm.

GOD SENT ABRAHAM directly into a storm. God told Abraham to take his son, Isaac, to Mount Moriah and offer him there as a sacrifice. That storm in Abraham’s life was introduced using these words: **(Gen 22:1 NKJV)**, “. . . **GOD TESTED ABRAHAM**, . . . {2} . . . “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering . . . ”

- S **OUR TEXT IS AN EXAMPLE OF A GOD-SENT STORM:** **(Mat 14:22)**, “. . . JESUS **CONSTRAINED HIS DISCIPLES** to get into a ship . . . ”

It was **Jesus’ idea** that they get into the boat, not their idea. The disciples were in a storm on the Sea of Galilee **BY GOD’S DESIGN**.

S WHY WOULD GOD INTENTIONALLY SEND HIS CHILDREN INTO A STORM? BECAUSE SOME OF LIFE'S GREATEST LESSONS are learned in the storms. In fact, **SOME LESSONS** in life **can only be learned in the storm.**

S One lesson that we learn in the storms of life is that **SOMETIMES GOD LEADS HIS CHILDREN INTO THE STORM.**

LAURA A. BARTER WROTE THE FOLLOWING WORDS TITLED: **THIS IS FROM ME:**

"My child, I have a message for you today; let me whisper it in your ear; that it may gild with glory any storm clouds that may arise, and smooth the rough places upon which you may have to tread. It is short, only five words, but let them sink into your inmost soul; use them as a pillow upon which to rest your weary head - **THIS THING IS FROM ME**"

COURTLAND MYERS

"Someday, God is going to reveal the fact to every Christian, that the very principles they now rebel against, have been the very instruments He used in perfecting their characters and molding them into perfection, polished stones for His great building yonder."

Lessons From the Storm:

I. **SOMETIMES GOD LEADS HIS CHILDREN INTO THE STORM**

II. GOD CARES FOR US IN THE STORM

S Another way to state that is **STORMS DO NOT HIDE US FROM GOD'S SIGHT.** Storms **DO NOT** take us outside of God's care. God can be trusted to care for us in the storms of life.

S THREE ELEMENTS DEMONSTRATE GOD'S CARE for the disciples even while they were in the storm. **THE FIRST ELEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN STATED.**

#1. JESUS SENT THEM INTO THE STORM

(Mat 14:22), "And straightway **JESUS CONSTRAINED HIS DISCIPLES** to get into a ship . . . "

S SINCE GOD SENT them into the storm, **THEN GOD KNEW** they were in the storm. **IN LIKE MANNER, WHEN GOD SENDS** us into a storm, then **GOD KNOWS** we are in the storm. That makes sense. If a parent sends their child into the grocery store, it is logical to conclude that parent knows where that child is.

S Mark it down in your memory banks and never forget, **GOD KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE!** If you are in the middle of a storm with dark clouds, high wind and threatening waves threatening you, God knows where you are.

S HAGAR FLED FROM SARAH because of jealousy between the two. Hagar was devastated because she had been expelled from the camp. In the middle of her storm, **the angel of God** talked to her and asked her what she was doing there. To make a long story short, the angel told Hagar to go back and to submit to Sarah. Do you recall **THE NAME** that Hagar gave to God at that time? She called God,

C **"You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees . . ."** (Gen 16:13).

C THE HEBREW IS **"EL"** (ale) **"RO'IY"** (ro-ee')

S THE POINT: If God knew exactly where **Hagar** was, and if God knew exactly where **THE DISCIPLES** were, then **GOD KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE, TOO!** **(Psa 34:15)**, "The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry."

#1. JESUS SENT THEM INTO THE STORM

#2. JESUS PRAYED FOR THEM WHILE IN THE STORM

(Mark 6:46), "And when he had sent them away, **HE DEPARTED INTO A MOUNTAIN TO PRAY.**"

(Mat 14:23), "And when he had sent the multitudes away, **HE WENT UP INTO A MOUNTAIN APART TO PRAY:** and when the evening was come, **he was there ALONE.**"

S WE ARE NOT TOLD WHAT Jesus prayed about, but it is **seems safe to assume** that Jesus prayed regarding **AT LEAST TWO IMPORTANT MATTERS:**

(1) SURELY PRAYED FOR **HIMSELF**. The Scripture makes clear that Jesus was **tempted** in all manners as we are, yet without sin (Heb 4.15). Jesus had been tempted by the crowd to be made king. While in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus taught His disciples, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mat 26:41).

(2) SURELY JESUS PRAYED FOR **HIS DISCIPLES**. It would be **wonderful** to have heard Jesus' words as He interceded before the Father. What might He have said.

"Father, I love them, as you love them. They are not prepared for the difficulties that lie ahead of them. Use the physical storm that you have prepared for them for the spiritual storms they will encounter. Please prepare them for the raging storms that lie ahead of them. Their excitement over the miracle of the five thousand is genuine, but they don't realize how superficial that joy is. They need a joy that will last even when they are rejected by the world. Help them in their fight of faith tonight."

MARK IT DOWN in your memory and never forget it — **AS JESUS PRAYED FOR HIS DISCIPLES** two thousand years ago, **SO JESUS PRAYS FOR YOU TODAY**. SOMEONE PRAYS FOR YOU EVERY DAY!

C (**Heb 7:25**), "... HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION . . . "

C (**Rom 8:26**), "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with **GROANINGS** which cannot be uttered."

C JESUS PRAYED FOR **PETER** (**Luke 22:31-32**), "... Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: {32} But **I HAVE PRAYED FOR THEE**, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

S You have probably had the **ENCOURAGING EXPERIENCE** of someone telling you they had sensed the Lord telling them to pray for you specifically.

- #1. JESUS **SENT THEM** INTO THE STORM
- #2. JESUS **PRAYED FOR THEM** WHILE IN THE STORM

#3. JESUS CAME TO THEM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM

(**John 6:19**), "So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, **THEY SEE JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA, AND DRAWING NIGH UNTO THE SHIP:** and they were afraid."

(**Mat 14:25**), "And in the fourth watch of the night **JESUS WENT UNTO THEM, WALKING ON THE SEA."**

THREE MIRACLES HAPPENED IN JOHN 6:

S **THE FIRST MIRACLE** took place when Jesus **FED THE FIVE THOUSAND**.

S **THE SECOND MIRACLE** was as astonishing as multiplying fish and bread for five thousand people. **JESUS WALKED ON** the surface of the Sea of Galilee without sinking. Moses walked across the Red Sea on dry ground. Jesus walk across the Sea of Galilee on top of the water.

S **A THIRD MIRACLE** WAS NOT SO OBVIOUS. Jesus found his disciples on that huge **sea** in the middle of a **storm** in the **dark** of night. That all by itself was a miracle.

S **STORMS DO NOT TAKE US OUTSIDE GOD'S CARE!** IT DOESN'T MATTER **how severe** the storm, or **how dark** the night, **God knows** where we are and **He cares** for us. The Bible provides **MANY EXAMPLES:**

(1) **JOSEPH WAS IN A STORM AND WHEN HE WAS THROWN INTO PRISON. GOD TOOK CARE OF HIM:**

C (**Gen 39:21**), "But **THE LORD WAS WITH JOSEPH**, and showed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison."

C (**Gen 50:19-20**), “And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? {20} But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but **GOD MEANT IT UNTO GOOD**, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”

(2) **MOSES WAS IN THE MIDST OF A STORM AND WHEN HE LED ISRAEL INTO THE WILDERNESS. GOD TOOK CARE OF HIM:**

C (**Deu 8:16**), “Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, **TO DO THEE GOOD** at thy latter end;”

(3) **SHADRACH, MESHACH & ABEDNEGO WERE THROWN INTO THE STORM OF A FIERY FURNACE AND GOD WAS WITH THEM.** The king looked into that fiery furnace and said:

C (**Dan 3:25**), “. . . LO, I SEE FOUR MEN loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”

SCRIPTURES:

C (**Phil 1:6**), “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

C (**Heb 13:5**), “. . . HE HATH SAID, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE.”

S **STORMS DO NOT INVALIDATE THE PROMISES OF GOD.** IN FACT, IN MANY INSTANCES **THE STORM IS EVIDENCE** of God’s work in our lives by virtue of what that storm is teaching us through our difficulty.

S **GEORGE MATHESON** is an example of God’s work in the storm. He was a bright young man with great opportunity in life until one he started going blind. Upon discovering the onset of his blindness his fiancée broke of their engagement. She did not want to carry the burden of being married to a blind man all her life. It was from the middle of that raging storm that George Matheson wrote these words:

“O love, that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths it flow
May richer, fuller be.

O joy that seekest me through pain,
I dare not shut my heart to Thee.
I’ll trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.”

S **MATTHEW HENRY**

“The God of Israel, the Savior, is sometimes a God that hides Himself but never a God that is absent; sometimes in the dark, but never at a distance.”

Lessons From the Storm:

- I. **SOMETIMES GOD LEADS HIS CHILDREN INTO THE STORM**
- II. **STORMS DO NOT TAKE US OUTSIDE GOD’S CARE**

III. STORMS TEND TO BRING OUR WEAKNESSES TO THE SURFACE

S **The feeding of the 5000 is NOT THE BEST PLACE** to discover who we really are. It is easy to walk by faith when life is a bed of roses. **THE REAL TEST** is how we act in the midst of the storm.

S **THE DISCIPLES MANIFEST A DOUBLE WEAKNESS** IN THE MIDST OF THEIR STORM. Their weaknesses were not obvious at the feeding of the 5000. It took the storm to surface their weaknesses.

#1. FEAR

(**John 6:19**), “So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and **THEY WERE AFRAID.**”

S **MARK TELLS US WHAT THEY WERE AFRAID OF:**

(**Mark 6:49**), “But when they saw him walking upon the sea, **THEY SUPPOSED IT HAD BEEN A SPIRIT**, AND CRIED OUT:”

C THE GREEK WORD FOR “A SPIRIT” is “PHANTASMA” (fan'-tas-mah). The English word PHANTOM is derived from that Greek word. They thought they were seeing a ghost. What they saw couldn't have been a human being because it was walking on the water.

C THE DISCIPLES WERE SO SCARED THAT THEY “CRIED OUT” (Mark 6:49). How do you suppose their cry sounded?

S HAVE YOU EVER CRIED OUT because of fear? GROWN UPS have a hard time admitting it, but THE TRUTH IS, storms often cause adults to cry out from fear.

SOME EXAMPLES:

(1) ISRAEL CRIED OUT IN THE WILDERNESS. In those particular instances the Bible referred to their cries as MURMURS.

(2) IN MARK 4 the disciples found themselves in the midst of EARLIER STORM on the Sea of Galilee. In that storm, Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat. The wind started blowing so hard the disciples were convinced they were going to drown. The disciples awakened Jesus and said, “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” (v. 38).

AN INTERESTING NOTE about that storm — JESUS HAD TAKEN THEM INTO THAT STORM BY DESIGN, TOO.

C (Mark 4:35), “And the same day, when the even was come, HE SAITH UNTO THEM, ‘LET US PASS OVER UNTO THE OTHER SIDE.’”

C THEY WERE AFRAID OF SOMETHING GOD HAD LED THEM INTO.

You may recall that Jesus rebuked that storm by saying to it, “PEACE, BE STILL” (v. 39). Immediately the storm grew still. Jesus then turned to His disciples and said:

(Mark 4:40), “. . . WHY ARE YE SO FEARFUL? . . . ”

#1. FEAR

#2. LACK OF FAITH

According to Matthew's gospel, WHEN PETER JUMPED OUT of the boat to walk to Jesus in the storm, Peter began to sink. Jesus had to catch him and then said to Him:

(Mat 14:31), “. . . O THOU OF LITTLE FAITH, wherefore didst thou doubt?”

S IN THE EARLIER STORM mentioned in Mark 4, Jesus not only rebuked HIS DISCIPLES for being controlled by fear, He rebuked them for having not faith:

C (Mark 4:40), “. . . Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have NO FAITH?”

S IT IS SO EASY FOR FAITH TO FALTER IN A STORM. We are so often like ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS, unable to see God's presence when all we have to do is look up and there is the cloud of His presence.

Lessons From the Storm:

- I. SOMETIMES GOD LEADS HIS CHILDREN INTO THE STORM
- II. STORMS DO NOT TAKE US OUTSIDE GOD'S CARE
- III. STORMS BRING OUR WEAKNESSES TO THE SURFACE

IV. GOD IS OFTEN SEEN FOR WHO HE IS BECAUSE OF A STORM

S THREE DISCOVERIES ABOUT GOD FROM THE STORM:

THEY DISCOVERED

#1. JESUS IS NEAR EVEN WHEN IN A RAGING STORM

(John 6:19), “So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they SEE JESUS WALKING ON THE SEA, and DRAWING NIGH unto the ship: and they were afraid.”

S SOMETIMES WE CANNOT SEE God in the storm because it is dark and the waves are crashing over our lives, but God is there. Sometimes we have to wait until we can get all the tears wiped away before we can focus, but He is there.

S JESUS WALKED RIGHT INTO THE MIDDLE OF THAT STORM to meet the needs of His disciples. If need be, Jesus will

walk right into the middle of our storm to meet our need. In fact, if we will learn to see with eyes of faith, we will be able to see Jesus there every time.

S HYMN

“Just when I need Him, Jesus is near;
Just when I falter, just when I fear,
Ready to help me, ready to cheer,
Just when I need Him most;
Jesus is near to comfort and cheer,
Just when I need Him most.”

#1. JESUS IS NEAR EVEN WHEN IN A RAGING STORM

#2. JESUS IS LORD EVEN OVER RAGING STORMS

(Mark 6:51), “. . . THE WIND CEASED: . . . ”

THE BIBLE IS FULL OF EXAMPLES OF GOD CALMING STORMS:

- (1) **DANIEL WAS THROWN INTO THE LIONS’ DEN.** That was a storm that God was able to calm (Dan 6:16).
- (2) **SHADRACH, MESHACH and ABEDNEGO WERE THROWN INTO A FIERY FURNACE** (Dan 3:21). God was able to calm the storm of the fiery furnace.
- (3) **PAUL WAS THROWN INTO PRISON FOR SERVING CHRIST** (Acts 16:23). That was a storm that God was able to calm. At twelve midnight God sent an earthquake and the prison doors were opened.
- (4) **JESUS IS MIGHTIER THAN ANY STORM WE MIGHT EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING DEATH ITSELF.** (1 Cor 15:55), “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

S MARK IT DOWN CLEAR AND PLAIN, **GOD CAN CALM STORMS!** BUT THAT DOESN’T MEAN that God chooses to calm every storm we go through.

SOMEONE HAS WRITTEN

“Sometimes the Lord calms the storm;
Sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child”

EXAMPLES:

- (1) **STEPHEN WAS STONED TO DEATH.** God could have prevented it. Jesus was standing at the throne of God waiting to receive Stephen. He could have stopped Stephen’s death, but He did not. What God did was give Stephen grace to endure it. (Acts 7:59-60), “And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. {60} And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”
 - (2) **PAUL ASKED GOD TO REMOVE HIS THORN IN THE FLESH.** God told Paul He would not remove it. What God said He would do was give Paul grace. (2 Cor 12:7-9), “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. {8} For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. {9} And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
 - (3) **JESUS ASKED THE FATHER TO REMOVE HIS CUP OF SUFFERING.** The Father did not remove the cup. The Father gave Him grace to endure.
- S (Isa 26:3), “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”
- S **OUR LEVEL OF PEACE** is directly related to OUR LEVEL OF FAITH. Once we have faith to endure, we can find peace to endure.

#1. JESUS IS NEAR EVEN WHEN IN A RAGING STORM

#2. JESUS IS LORD EVEN OVER RAGING STORMS

#3. JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

(Mat 14:33), “Then they that were in the ship came and **WORSHIPED** him, saying, ‘OF A TRUTH THOU ART THE SON OF GOD.’”

S BECAUSE OF THE STORM, THE DISCIPLES **LEARNED WHO JESUS WAS.**

S FROM THAT PERSPECTIVE, that storm was one of **THE BEST**

THINGS the disciple had ever gone through. From that storm they learned that **JESUS WAS GOD HIMSELF!**

MANY UNBELIEVERS BECAME BELIEVERS BECAUSE OF THE STORM THEY WENT THROUGH:

- (1) **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** ACKNOWLEDGED GOD BECAUSE OF HIS INSANITY.
(**Dan 4:37**), “Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.”

(2) **MANY UNTOLD TESTIMONIES**

MANY BELIEVERS GREW IN THEIR FAITH BECAUSE OF THE STORM THEY WENT THROUGH.

- (1) **THE DISCIPLES** are an example.
- (2) If we opened it up for **TESTIMONIES**, we could all share the **lessons God taught** through some storm. Many folks would never have **come to personally know the Lord**, apart from the storm God allowed them to go through.

S THOSE TESTIMONIES WOULD ALL STAND AS A LIVING EXAMPLES OF:

- C (**Rom 8:28**), “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”
- C (**Psa 119:67, 71**), “Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. . . . {71} It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.”

Have we come to the place by faith that we understand that:
"JESUS IS THE LORD OF ALL MY STORMS?"