



Introduction:

The storms of earth, like hurricanes, can be scary. As well, the storms of life can bring incredible fear. Storms by nature are contrary to us. The message Pastor Dan taught revealed that storms challenge us. They test the strength of our faith. Fear can be a terrible thing. The Bible declares that fear brings pain that paralyzes (Proverbs 29:25; 1 John 4:18; Hebrews 2:15). But through Christ, fear doesn't have to inhibit you (2 Timothy 1:7)! Pastor Dan's message came from Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; and John 6:15-21.

The Focus:

- **Every believer can have the peace of God.**
 - **Christ is with you in the storm.**
 - **Christ is praying for you in the storm.**
 - **Christ will use the storm for your good.**

The setting: John the Baptist had just died, and Jesus desired to be alone. But people wanted to see their King. As well, Christ had just fed thousands of people with five loaves and two fishes. A tumult was developing (John 6:15). Christ, knowing of the sacrifice and suffering that had to proceed the crown, sent the disciples away to avoid the commotion (Matthew 14:22).

From the time Jesus sent them away to when He approached them in the midst of the sea, nine hours had passed (Matthew 14:25-27). During this time, Christ went up into a mountain to pray (Matthew 14:23). Although the disciples went through the storm, God knew where they were the entire time; He persuaded them to get on the boat and go (Matthew 14:22). God has assured us that He is with us through the storm (Hebrews 13:5-6), and His grace is sufficient to get us through (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). The Bible declares that one day there will be no more storms (Revelation 21:4), but until that day, Christ is with us through everything that we may face. We are comforted by God's Word that declares there is nothing that can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38-39) or presence (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30).

Not only is He with you in the storm, but He is praying for you through it (Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46). Christ, who is preeminent, sits by God's right hand (Ephesians 1:20-21) mediating and interceding on your behalf (Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5). Because He is exalted, all things are subject to Him (Ephesians 1:22). Our Savior and King is supreme! When you are struggling, remember all that you have in Christ (Ephesians 1:3). Know this – the waves that are over your head are under His feet. We have a mighty God!

Oftentimes, our view of things is much different from God's. Often, we see problems as an inconvenience or interruption to our plan, but God sees things as an opportunity. While there is no scriptural evidence that God caused the storm the disciples encountered, Christ would use it to reveal His strength (Matthew 14:26-27). The storm allowed the disciples to see Christ's power. In times of our weakness, Christ's strength is able to be revealed (2 Corinthians

12:9-10). The storm was used to increase the disciples' faith, making it stronger (Matthew 14:31). As well, the storm was used to bring them closer to Christ.

Response to the Sermon:

In the sermon, Pastor Dan stated that when we are dealing with storms, just like the disciples thought they saw a ghost (Matthew 14:26), we can perceive things that are not so. Those false perceptions can lead to thoughts of doubt (Matthew 14:31). What are the tools Christ has given us to drive away every thought that is contrary to God's truth (2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:17-18)? Knowing the tools God has given you, what must **you** do to weather the storms of life?

Bible Study Thoughts & Questions:

The storms of life are manifested differently. Sometimes people are the cause (Philippians 1:29-30). Sometimes they are physical ailments or conditions (2 Corinthians 12:7; Galatians 4:13-15). Sometimes they are circumstances (Acts 27:9-44). Paul, as well as others, experienced difficulties, but it is how they handled the situations that determined the outcomes. Paul said of his life in 2 Timothy 4:7, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."* What did Paul follow that allowed him to make that statement regarding his faith (2 Timothy 4:1-4)?

Christ told the disciples that He would suffer (Luke 9:22), and Paul told the church that we would suffer with Him (Romans 8:17). Christ was glorified (Acts 3:13) and exalted (Acts 2:33) because of His sufferings. What do the storms of life work in us (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)?

What did Paul encourage the Philippians about that we, as followers of Christ, ought to do for others (Philippians 4:14)?

What did Moses do that is a great example for when we experience difficulties (Hebrews 11:24-26)?

Application Questions:

According to the different passages from Pastor Dan's sermon, we know that Christ was with the disciples in the midst of the storm (Matthew 14:24-27). Who consoles us through our storms (2 Corinthians 1:5)?

What does God provide us who are going through different difficulties and trials of life (2 Corinthians 12:9)?

Is there anyone to fear for those who are in Christ (Romans 8:31)? How should knowing this help your faith in Christ?

What promise do believers have according to Hebrews 13:5-6? As was sung Sunday, God's "Word throws doubt far away."

What three Scriptures can comfort you and allow you to be able to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul?"

Prayer:

- Pray that you would manifest the spirit that Christ has given you (2 Timothy 1:7).
- Pray that God's peace would take control when the storm clouds arise (Colossians 3:15).
- Remember that Christ can use and work all things for good (Romans 8:28).
- Remember you have an advocate in heaven who is petitioning on your behalf (Romans 8:34).