

# KINGDOM-DRIVEN LIFE #23

## Lord of the Storm

### Part One

*When Jesus saw the crowd around him, he instructed his disciples to cross to the other side of the lake. Then one of the teachers of religious law said to him, Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go. But Jesus replied, Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head. Another of his disciples said, Lord, first let me return home and bury my father. But Jesus told him, Follow me now. Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead. Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, Lord, save us! We're going to drown! Jesus responded, Why are you afraid? You have so little faith! Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly all was calm. The disciples were amazed. Who is this man? they asked. Even the winds and waves obey him!*

Matthew 8:18-27 NLT

## I. It's All About Jesus

### A. Comments

1. Jesus taught with authority, (Mt. 7:28), cleansed the leper with a touch, (Mt. 8:3) and healed a slave from a distance by speaking a word, (Mt. 8:13)
2. Notice how Jesus gathers a crowd. (Mt. 8:18) But instead of enjoying the adulation, Jesus says, "let's cross over to the other side of the lake", or "let's get out of here".
  - a. It's not about crowding around Jesus on Sunday morning, it's about **following** Him wherever He goes every day of your life.
  - b. Discipleship is not an event, it's a lifestyle, a process; it's about "follow-ship", not just "fellowship".
  - c. Jesus is "leading" us into His purpose, which in this case is to "cross over to the other side of the lake", **knowing there's a storm in between!**
3. Many come to Jesus and say they want to follow Him. (Mt. 8:19-21)
4. Instead of promising these would-be followers an easy time and a rosy future, Jesus almost seems to discourage them!
  - a. Don't expect security and comfort

b. Understand you'll have to put me ahead of everything else, including your family!

5. We need a Kingdom *perspective* here. Jesus knows what following Him will involve: sacrifice, obedience and faith to go through storms! He knows what's ahead. He is not only a Savior, Teacher and Healer, He is also "Lord Of The Storm".

6. Storms in scripture have spiritual meaning in that they represent the trials, troubles and scary times of life. Storms come to people, churches, marriages, friendships, finances and sickness.

7. And there are three things we need to know about the "storms" that come as we follow Jesus:

- Storms are inevitable
- Storms are tests of faith-they are a *problem* with a *purpose*
- Storms drive us to Jesus, the "Lord Of The Storm"

## II. Three Purposes of Storms

### A. Storms Are Inevitable

1. There's a school of thought today that the Christian message ought to be all about comforting the listeners and that following Jesus (if we do it right) insures health, wealth and smooth waters.

2. This rosy picture of the Christian life is so prevalent that storms surprise us when they shouldn't.

***Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.***

**I Peter 4:12-13 KJV**

3. Jesus says, "Follow Me", then enters a ship on a lake when He **knows** a storm is coming!

a. What we may be going through right now is not a surprise to Jesus!

b. The Good Shepherd will lead His sheep through some scary times:

***The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness...For His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...***

**Excerpts from Psalm 23:1-4**

***Sometimes the Lord will lead us through the valley of the shadow of death!!!***

4. Notice the severity and suddenness of the storm.
  - a. “*Suddenly* a fierce storm arose...” (8:24)
  - b. The waves were actually “*breaking into the boat*”; Literally, the boat was “covered with waves”
  - c. Remember, most of these disciples were fishermen who had seen many storms, but this one terrifies them as life threatening.
5. What makes it really tough is that Jesus seems to be asleep!
  - a. This is the only time in the Bible where we are told Jesus was asleep!
  - b. During the test, the Teacher stops talking!
6. The issue this level of storm is the same for us as them. Does God care?

***The disciples woke him up, shouting, Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?***  
**Mark 4:38 NLT**

- a. Notice that they saw Jesus as just a “Teacher”, not as “Lord of the Storm”!
- b. Good teaching won’t save you when you’re drowning!
- c. We don’t need more teaching. We need more faith!
- d. You’re not weird or defective if you wonder why God seems not to care!

***Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble?***  
**Psalm 10:1 NKJV**

***O Lord, how long will you forget me? Forever? How long will you look the other way?***

**Psalm 13:1 NLT**

***Why do you look the other way? Why do you ignore our suffering and oppression? We collapse in the dust...***

**Psalm 44:24-25 NLT**

*O Lord, why do you reject me? Why do you turn your face from me? I have been sick and close to death since my youth. I stand helpless and desperate before your terrors. Your fierce anger has overwhelmed me. Your terrors have paralyzed me. They swirl around me like floodwaters all day long. They have engulfed me completely. You have taken away my companions and loved ones.*

*Darkness is my closest friend.*

Psalm 88:14-18 NLT

## **Lesson #1**

### **Storms Are Inevitable!**

#### **B. Storms Are Tests Of Faith: A Problem With A Purpose!**

## **Lesson #2**

### **Storms are always tests of faith: A problem with a purpose!**

1. Storms, trials and troubles are always about ***faith***.

*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

James 1:2-3 NASB

2. When a storm comes to your marriage, you must endure. When storms come to your church, you must endure. When storms come to your relationships, you must endure.

- a. The tendency in storms is to bail out, as in the Apostle Paul's storm in Acts 27

*The next day, as gale-force winds continued to batter the ship, the crew began throwing the cargo overboard. The following day they even took some of the ship's gear and threw it overboard. The terrible storm raged for many days, blotting out the sun and the stars, until at last all hope was gone...About midnight on the fourteenth night of the storm...the sailors tried to abandon the ship; they lowered the lifeboat as though they were going to put out anchors from the front of the ship...But Paul said to the commanding officer and the soldiers, You will all die unless the sailors stay aboard. So the soldiers cut the ropes to the lifeboat and let it drift away.*

Excerpts from Acts 27:18-32 NLT

3. Storms test our faith as we follow Jesus into the ship. In this case, they had "NO" faith!

*And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?*

Mark 4:40 KJV

4. Faith is about believing Jesus has authority over ALL things:

*... (the Roman Centurion) said, speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed...for I, too, am a man under authority...and Jesus was amazed (and) said, I tell you I have not found such great faith even in all of Israel...*

**Paraphrased From Matthew 8:8-10**

5. The Centurion's faith was in Jesus' word: The disciples' "no faith" was because they had not really believed Jesus word as to His purpose...that they would "go to the other side".

***And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side.***

**Matthew 8:18 NKJV**

- a. He didn't tell them about the storm. Selah.
- b. He didn't say "go out to the middle of the lake and drown".
- c. The test of their faith was whether or not they really had believed they would go to the other side!

### ***Storms are problems with a purpose!***

6. We're not going to follow Jesus into any purpose He has without going through storms!

- Marriage
- Business
- Church life
- Friendships

7. To follow Jesus means hearing His direction and going there, sticking with the course even when it seems we're going to drown.

### **III. Conclusion**

- Storms are inevitable
- Storms are always tests of faith; problems with a purpose
- The ultimate question: "Is Jesus on board?"

1. The real issue of life is not can you avoid a storm or get through one...it's "Is Jesus in my ship?"

2. If you were married in Christ, Jesus is in the marriage; If Jesus placed you in His church, Jesus is in the church; If Jesus tells you to cross over the lake, He's in the boat!

3. It's not about YOU! It's always about JESUS!

4. Where is our focus?

***God allows storms so we realize our need to change our focus on the problem  
to the purpose of the Lord...the "Lord Of The Storm"!***