

Sunday, August 6, 2023, | Everyday Disciple

Week 16 | Luke 8:22-25 | "Storms"

Last week, we learned the difference between hearing and listening. Those who hear God's word and don't listen (i.e., obey) are like one of three soils: the pathway, the rocky ground, or the soil filled with thorns. They would follow God, but they've allowed Satan to harden their hearts; they don't want to follow Jesus when it gets tough, or their lives are too full of worry, riches, and pleasure. But those who hear and listen to what God tells them to do, hold fast to the scriptures and bear fruit with patience. They are like those who put their lamp on the lamp stick to help guide others. And they are considered a part of God's family because they are simply hearers of the word but doers. Ultimately, **hearing God's Word is pointless if we're not also listening to God's Word.**

Today, we'll be talking about storms. However much the weatherman wants you to believe he can see into the future with all his data, instruments, and weather patterns, storms cannot be predicted with precision. They can spring up without warning. They can vary from moderate to severe to dangerous. And they can humble even the most stalwart heart. Storms are one of the many phenomena in the world that we actively try to avoid, and we pray we never experience one so large that it can threaten our lives.

But storms aren't always of the weather variety, are they? We can experience hardships in our personal lives that would rival any flood. Like a tornado leveling an entire neighborhood, our world can feel like it's been obliterated. What are we supposed to do at that moment? How do we pick up the pieces when the storm has done its damage? Is there any hope for those who feel like a boat in the center of a hurricane? To answer those questions, we must understand who Jesus is.

Luke illustrates Jesus' identity in *three* ways:

- i. **Jesus confirmed the destination (vs. 22).**

READ: Luke 8:22- (ESV)

²² One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "[Let us go across to the other side of the lake.](#)" So they set out,

Jesus' simple command, "Let us go," will have massive ramifications in a minute. But do not overlook that before there was a storm, Jesus confirmed the destination. He already knows

where he's going, and he already knows how to get there. The disciples were invited to trust that they would arrive at their destination. They simply needed to believe Jesus' simple command. To repeat my point from last week, the disciples heard Jesus say these words; time will tell if they were actually listening.

Jesus may not reveal all that's ahead of us; however, never forget that no matter what you will face, should you be a believer, your destination is already set. By God's grace, you will make it to wherever Jesus is sending you.

ii. Jesus commanded the storm (vs. 23-24).

READ: Luke 8:23-24 (ESV)

²³ and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. ²⁴ And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

As God commanded the Red Sea, Jesus commanded the Sea of Galilee.

iii. Jesus challenged the disciples (vs. 25).

READ: Luke 8:25 (ESV)

²⁵ He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

The disciples were tested and failed. They lacked faith. So much so that Jesus even had to ask, "Where is your faith?" As if their faith was utterly non-existent.

Storms have a way of making us question our faith. They have a way of making us forget Jesus' words.

So, what's the takeaway?

Knowing Jesus' identity makes every hardship navigable.

The disciples said, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?" And the irony of that statement is that the storm listened better to Jesus' words than the disciples.

Here's what I mean.

The Lord said, "Let us go across the other side of the lake." He didn't say, "Let us get on this boat and sink." Jesus' command to cross water was not up for debate. They would cross it. But the storm made the disciples doubt Jesus' words. But where the disciples wavered, the storm obeyed. The storm knew better than the disciples that the one in the boat was no ordinary man. Jesus was God. Though Jesus was asleep, as God, he knew what they were going through. He allowed this storm to interrupt their voyage to test their faith.

How often have we lost heart because we have forgotten who Jesus is? We have forgotten that he is God, Creator of earth, sky, and sea. And we have forgotten that the God who made the storm clouds is also in the boat with us.

So, what's the takeaway?

Knowing Jesus' **identity** makes every hardship **navigable**.

Take heart, dear Christian; you do not ride the open seas alone. Captain Jesus has already confirmed your destination, has command of all creation, and is ever-challenging us to believe in His name. The Lord rides the waves with us, and as such, we have nothing to fear.

Video Description

Everyday Disciple | Week 16 | “Storms”

TEXT: Luke 8:22-25

Today, we'll be talking about storms. However much the weatherman wants you to believe he can see into the future with all his data, instruments, and weather patterns, storms cannot be predicted with precision. They can spring up without warning. They can vary from moderate to severe to dangerous. And they can humble even the most stalwart heart. Storms are one of the many phenomena in the world that we actively try to avoid, and we pray we never experience one so large that it can threaten our lives.

But storms aren't always of the weather variety, are they? We can experience hardships in our personal lives that would rival any flood. Like a tornado leveling an entire neighborhood, our world can feel like it's been obliterated. What are we supposed to do at that moment? How do we pick up the pieces when the storm has done its damage? Is there any hope for those who feel like a boat in the center of a hurricane? To answer those questions, we must understand who Jesus is.

Pastor's manuscript can be found here: