

“Storm at Sea”
Matthew 8:23-27
Tuesday Bible Lunch
April 10, 2018

Introduction: Life is much like a voyage at sea. Just like storms can come at sea storms come in life. There are many surprises in life. Things can be going along smoothly and suddenly things can and do change. We just do not know what the next day will bring. We have all experienced this.

Illustration: On Sunday, February 18th I preached at the First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs. At lunch we were invited to the home of one of our friends for Lunch. Three other families who have remained good friends over the years joined us. It was a wonderful lunch and time with our friends. Everybody was well and happy. Two weeks later one of those had a stroke and lost her vision. Another had serious surgery this past week. Today, another is meeting with a surgeon to schedule what is going to be serious surgery.

The storms of life are indeed very much like a voyage at sea. Things can be good and then things can so quickly change. This is what we see in our Scripture story today.

Text: Matthew chapter 8

- The Sea of Galilee is one of the most beautiful places in the Holy Land.
- It is not a sea. It is a fresh body of water.
- It is 13-14 miles long and 7-8 miles wide.
- In the Bible, it goes by four names.
 1. “Sea of Galilee” (Matthew 4:18)
 2. “Sea of Chinnereth” (Numbers 34:11; Joshua 12:3; 13:27) This may be because of its harp-like shape).
 3. “Lake of Gennesareth (Luke 5:1) from the flat side on the west side
 4. “Sea of Tiberias” (John 6:1; 21:1)

Storms come on the Sea of Galilee without much warning. In Matthew chapter 8, we read about one of those storms.

Text: Matthew 8:23-27

Lessons:

1. Even though we are Christians, storms will come.

- The disciples were followers of Jesus, but they experienced a storm.
- Jesus was in the boat with them.
- Jesus told us that in this life storms will come (John 16:33).

Illustration: The apostle John is the only one of the original disciples not to die a violent death.

Application: The storms that come should never surprise us. They are part of life in this life.

2. Even though we are Christians, we will sometimes be afraid when life's storms come.

- The disciples in the story were afraid they were going to die.
- There is no need to fear that one day you will die because one day you will die.

Illustration: Billy Graham used to say that what he feared was how he would die.

Application: One day we will all die, but not really. Our bodies will die, but we are not bodies. We are souls that live in bodies.

Illustration: Jesus' words to Martha in John 11:26 are for all believers.

3. The important thing is not the amount of your faith, but the object of your faith.

- The disciples in the boat with Jesus had little faith (8:26).
- The amount of their faith was not the issue—it never is.
- The issue is the object of your faith.

Application: When storms come, focus on the object of your faith. This is why I love Psalm 16:8 especially in the NIV translation.

“I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand I will not be shaken” (Psalm 16:8—NIV).

Conclusion: Whatever comes your way, remember who is with you. Jesus will be with you just like He was with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:22-15).