

## **SERMON: THE STORM MASTER**

### **John 6: 14-21**

**(14) Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. (15) 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 land whither they went.**

### **Introduction**

Jesus has just worked a miracle and fed close to fifteen thousand people with only two small fish and five little muffins. He then escaped to the mountains because they were planning to forcefully claim Him as their king. This populist movement did not align with His divine timeline. The only person who influenced Him to deviate from His divine schedule was His mother, Mary, when He turned water into wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. He sent the disciples away to Capernaum and He went to the mountains to pray to the Father. (If Jesus had to pray, what about us?) The journey to Capernaum by boat, on the Sea of Galilee, was a five-to-seven-mile journey. In route, the disciples encountered a sudden, severe storm. They were about halfway across the lake when they saw Jesus approaching them, walking on the water. They were afraid of the approaching figure. Matthew and Mark's account of this narrative reveal that they thought Jesus was a ghost. Perhaps they thought the situation had gone from bad to worse. "The storm is bad enough, now we have to contend with a ghost." Once they realized it was Jesus, they were greatly relieved. Jesus allowed Peter to also walk on the water. Then Jesus got into the boat, the wind ceased, and they instantly reached Capernaum.

The miracle of Jesus walking on water is the fifth of seven signs that John offers in the section of Scripture as proof of Jesus' identity as the sovereign Son of God. John's version of this miracle is shorter than Matthew or Mark's accounts, yet he brings in details they did not include. John tells us why Jesus sent the disciples away and He, Himself, went to the mountains. John also indicates that two additional miracles occurred besides Jesus and Peter walking on the water: the wind immediately ceased and the boat instantly arrived at its precise destination as soon as Jesus stepped into

the boat. Now that will make your head swim - in a good way! When Jesus got on board, did the boat move at the speed of light? Maybe it did! Jesus is indeed the Storm Master. As we encounter the storms on the sea of life, let us never forget this spiritual and practical truth. Applying this truth can save us from a lot of stress, worry, and sleepless nights.

### **Exposition**

#### **1. The Storm Master Is Aware of Our Predicaments.**

- (He Is Aware of External Dangers.)
- (He Is Aware of Our Internal Fears.)
- (He Is Aware of the Entire Situation.)

#### **2. The Storm Master Comes and Helps Us.**

- (He Is Not Removed And Aloof In Our Times Of Need.)
- (He Is Not Recognized Sometimes Because of Our Own Fears.)
- (He Comes In A Crisis with Words of Assurance and Hope.)

#### **3. The Storm Master Brings Us Safely to Our Appointed Destinations.**

- (He Helps Us Complete Our Journeys.)
- (He Gets In the Boat and Travels with Us.)
- (He Is Not An Idle, Passive Bystander.)

### **Closing Thoughts**

This miracle represents our life's journey as Christians. We have to travel from point A to point B. We move from season to season and from stage to stage. We move through life from infancy to adulthood. In the process, sudden storms will arise. We will encounter financial storms, health storms, relational storms, storms of bereavement, and even the storm of a pandemic. We must be assured that Jesus will always come to our rescue. We must not let these storms deplete our enthusiasm or make us want to give up. Remember, Jesus never promised us constant smooth sailing; He did promise us a safe landing at our appointed destinations. Give God Glory! Give God All the Glory!

### **Related Scriptures**

**Matthew 14:24-36**

**Mark 6:47-56**

### **End Note:**

The Sea of Galilee is really a large freshwater lake. It measures approximately 13 miles long by 7 miles wide. It sits 690 feet below sea level and is the lowest body of fresh water on earth. The steep hills and mountains surrounding the Sea of Galilee make it vulnerable to high winds, which can cause sudden, violent storms to develop on the water. Inland seas can be as furious, perhaps more furious than open seas, because the open seas have more width to spread their turbulence. Even today ten-foot waves

have been recorded on the lake. Fishermen, although noted for their bravery, feared these sudden storms. Some scholars believe one of the reasons Jesus picked fishermen as disciples was because of their reputation for rugged bravery. Unfortunately, they also had a reputation for cussing. Maybe as soon as the fishing “got good” a storm brewed and they had to abandon their work, cussing as they headed for the shore.

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