

Growing through Life's Storms Mt. 14:22-33

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC April 19th AM

Few welcome the stormy seasons of life and Most try to avoid them, but none succeed. (Job 5:7)

1. Storms are Inevitable. (Romans 8:22-30)

A. Some storms are “self made”. Gal. 6:7,8 reminds us that we will always reap

- 1) What we sow.
- 2) After we sow
- 3) More than we sow. Hosea 8:7 *“They’ve sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind:”* (hurricane!)

B. Some storms are caused by others.

- 1) Our lives (and choices) affect others.
 - a) David’s adultery affected many. (2 Sam. 12) (*Bathsheba, Uriah, Joab, Ahithophel, etc.*)
 - b) Those closest to us will be the most affected. 2 Sam 12:10 *“the sword shall never depart from thine house”* (Amnon, Tamar, Absalom, etc. 2 Sam. 13)
 - 2) Other’s lives (and choices) affect ours. Ro 14:7 *“For none of us liveth to himself”*
 - a) 70,000 died because of the plague brought on by David’s pride. (2 Sam. 24:17)
- You are free to make your own choices, But you are not free to determine the consequences for those choices: Where those choices will lead; Who those choices will affect; and What those choices will ultimately cost! (You and others!)

2. Storms are Unpredictable

A. There were two storms recorded in the lives of Jesus and His disciples.

- 1) In Mark 4 after teaching parables (1-34) Jesus directed them to cross the sea. Vs 35
36 *“and there arose a great storm... (megas lai’laps: Huge Whirlwind {hurricane}) waves beat into the ship so that it was now full”... 38 “Master, carest thou not that we perish?”*
39 *“he rebuked the wind... Peace be still! And there was a great calm.*
Jesus asked in vs 40 *“Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?”*
- 2) The Second storm is recorded in Mt. 14:22-33 (after feeding the 5,000)
 - a) John 6:14,15 tells us that the people wanted to make Jesus their King.
 - b) The disciples were undoubtedly excited about their upcoming “promotion”.
 - c) Instead of their coronation, Jesus *“constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.”* Mt 14:22
They ended up caught in a terrible storm that Jesus walked through to them, encouraging Peter to leave the boat and walk toward him. Vs 25-33

3. Storms can be Profitable

A. Some Are Sent To Turn Us.

- 1) Sometimes God gets in our way! Pr. 1:23 *“turn at my reproof”* (see also Micah 2:10)
Remember Jonah (Jonah 1,2) and the Prodigal Son? (Luke 15:11-25)
- 2) The Context of God’s promise in 2 Chr. 7:14 is found in the various “storms” that our sin would bring on us! (See 2 Chron. 6)

B. Some Are Sent To Teach Us.

1) Of our own inadequacy. Mt 14:22-33

Jn 6:19 says it had taken them over 9 hours to row 25-30 furlongs.

2) About our own vulnerability! What were they thinking/Feeling?

3) About God's Sovereignty

a) Notice The effect of the first storm in Mark 4:41 *"they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*

b) Notice the effect of the second Storm in Mt. 14:33 *"Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God."*

The reality is that all storms are under God's control. (Ro 8:28; Ps. 148:8; Nahum 1:3; Ps. 29)

4) About the foundation (source or basis) of our faith! Mt 7:24-27

Conclusion: Ro. 8:22 *"For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now.*

(Although Storms are inevitable and painful; they can also be Profitable!)

vs 28 *"And we know that all things work together for good (agathos: beneficial) to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purposes."*

Application: How to "benefit" from Storms:

1) Reject Fear and Embrace Faith.

Mk 4:40 *"Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"*

Mt 14:26 *"they cried out for fear." Vs 31 "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"*

2 Tim. 1:7 *"God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

1 John 4:18 *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear."*

2) Don't Panic, but Pray! *"Lord Save me"* Mt 14:30 Phil. 4:6,7

"Be careful (merimnao: anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace (eirēnē: to join in peace) of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep (phroureo: guard, protect) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

3) Don't Blame (God) but Believe Him! Mt 14:31 *"wherefore didst thou doubt?"*

Remember the Father of the Demonic son in Mk. 8:14-27 vs 24 *"Help thou mine unbelief"*

4) Don't Resist or Resent God, but Respond to Him.

Peter had to walk through the storm to be with Jesus! (Mt 14:28-31)

"When you can't trace God's hand; You can always Trust His Heart!"

Charles Spurgeon

Casting Crowns (Mark Hall) song "I'll praise you in the storm"

Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ck2sFfoRMdg>

Story behind the song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGmrlBSA8T0>