

COMING BACK STRONGER FROM *STORMS*

Matthew 14:22-34

- **August 29, 2025 is the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, and many people after Katrina thought that the NOLA Region would never recover.**
- **Many people in our region have learned how to "come back stronger" from scary situations, struggles and "storms" in their lives (Matthew 14:22-34).**
- **When we have to deal with emotional, financial, physical, relational or vocational challenges, we are going through "storms" in our lives.**
- Jesus - *"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows."* (John 16:33)
- ***What "storms" have I had to deal with in my life?***
- "We're either in the midst of a storm, or we've just come out of a storm, or we're headed for a storm - because storms are a part of life." - Dennis Watson
- ***What steps can we take to overcome the big "storms" of life?***

We Will Overcome Life's "Storms" When We:

TRUST IN THE <u>PURPOSES</u> OF JESUS

- *"Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that His disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while He sent the people home."*(Matthew 14:22)
- **We can experience "storms" caused by the devil, caused by others, caused by ourselves or even by the Lord.**
- **It is sometimes God's purpose for us to go through "storms" in our lives.**
- *"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them."* (Romans 8:28)
- **Believing that the Lord is able to bring good out of even the most difficult of circumstances brings peace and victory to our lives.**

We Will Overcome Life's "Storms" When We:

KNOW OF THE <u>PRAYERS</u> OF JESUS*"After sending them home, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray."* (Matthew 14:23)

- **Jesus is always watching over and praying for His people (Hebrews 7:25).**
- *"Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, thank you for hearing Me. You always hear Me . . ."* (John 11:41-42)
- **Our Heavenly Father always hears and answers the prayers of Jesus.**

We Will Overcome Life's "Storms" When We:

FOCUS ON THE <u>PRESENCE</u> OF JESUS

- *"Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw Him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, 'It's a ghost!' But Jesus spoke to them at once. 'Don't be afraid,' He said. 'Take courage. I am here!'"* (Matthew 14:24-27)
- **Jesus is always with His people or comes to His people in the midst of their storms.**
- *"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."* (Psalm 46:1)
- **Keeping our focus on Jesus in the midst of our storms will enable us to have the peace and strength we need to survive our "storms."**
- *"You (O Lord) will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You!"* (Isaiah 26:3)
- "If we look outward at our circumstances, we will be distressed. If we look inward at ourselves, we will be depressed. If we look upward at the Lord we will be at rest!" (Corrie Ten Boon)

We Will Overcome Life's "Storms" When We:

EXPERIENCE THE <u>POWER</u> OF JESUS

- *"About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water."* (Matthew 14:25)
- **Jesus had already demonstrated to His disciples His power over storms (Matthew 8:23-27).**
- *"When they (Jesus and Peter) climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. Then the disciples worshiped Him. 'You really are the Son of God!' they exclaimed."* (Matthew 14:32-33)
- **Jesus' power and provision is sufficient for us when we are fighting the storms of life.**
- The Lord – *"My grace is sufficient for you . . ."* (2 Corinthians 12:9)
- *"Overwhelming victory is ours through Christ."* (Romans 8:37)

- **Everything that looks "over our heads" is under the feet of Jesus (John 16:33, Ephesians 1:17-23, Philippians 2:9-11).**

We Will Overcome Life's "Storms" When We:

RELY UPON THE <u>PROMISES</u> OF JESUS

- *"After they had crossed the lake, they landed at Gennesaret."* (Matthew 14:34)
- **Jesus had told His disciples that they were going to make it to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – and He always keeps His promises.**
- *"The Lord always keeps His promises . . ."* (Psalm 145:13)
- **Behind the commands of the Lord are His promises and provision that enable us to carry out those commands.**
- **Christians do not live by explanations, but by the promises of the Lord (Psalm 37:23-24, 145:13).**

- **Jesus has willed to His followers His supernatural peace in the midst of every storm.**
- Jesus - *"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in Me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."* (John 16:33)
- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message, and how am I going to respond to today's Word?***