



Home Group

Calming the Storm

Week commencing 23rd November

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As you start to read these notes recall to mind a storm that you might have been in - when we talk about a storm that is wind, rain, thunder and lightning, high seas, flooding etc.

What was it like, how did you feel at that moment?

Perhaps discuss this briefly with someone.

I said during the Family Service on Sunday Jesus' calming the storm is in [Matthew 8:23-27](#), [Mark 4:35-41](#) and [Luke 8:22-25](#). It might be good to read one or all the accounts.

In these accounts Jesus had been busy all-day long teaching people, healing the sick and telling stories, then at the end of the day He got into the boat and falls asleep.

As they ran into the storm, the disciples panicked.

How often do we panic first - then ask for help?

We must remember though that during this storm Jesus was in the same boat as the panic stricken disciples.

In life we go through many storms and like a storm at sea there are ups and downs, and we get pushed from side to side. Our storms might be due to what is going on around us in our lives. We could face issues with family and friends, illness or loss of mobility, we might feel stressed and anxious, or loneliness due to the loss of a loved one, we might worry about money due to the loss of a job or trying to make ends meet.

We are all in a storm right now with the global pandemic of COVID-19.

First point to remember is that ...

Jesus is in the boat of our lives with us, going through it with us.

Have you ever been in a 'life' storm, would you be willing to share what happened?

The Gospels also recall a second storm or strong wind on the Sea of Galilee, this time Jesus wasn't in the boat with the disciples. This event is recorded in

[Matthew 14:22-36](#), [Mark 6:45-52](#) and [John 6: 16-24](#).

Some years ago one of the stories at Holiday Club focused on the Matthew account. Before the Holiday Club started someone preached on this passage. Despite reading it several times over in the weeks before one word hit me like a brick, it was the last part of verse 23

After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, **he was there alone**, (Matthew 14:23)

This word 'alone' stuck in my head all through that talk. The disciples in the boat were also '**alone**' in the boat, during a storm or strong wind pushing them sideways.

How often do we find ourselves 'alone'?

The passage continues, as we read Jesus came to them walking on the water - the disciples didn't recognise Him standing there besides them.

How often do we face a storm and not see Jesus right there beside us?

Jesus got into the boat and calm descended on the situation.

Second point to remember is that ...

If you feel alone then Jesus is there beside you invite him into your boat



Once again in the Matthew 14 passage we hear Peter say "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." verse 28. Much to Peter's surprise Jesus says "Come". Then ...when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:30-31)

Final point to remember is that...

We should stay fixed and focused on Jesus and not on what is going on around us.

When we have Jesus on board he can and will bring peace and calm into whatever storm we are in, he can reach out his hand and pull us up like he did with Peter.

