

The Storms of Life

I used to love a gentle thunderstorm, especially on a lazy Saturday afternoon or when you're tucked safely in bed. But sometimes from a small rain shower can come a sudden powerful storm. Out of the blue, life can change in an instance. The truth is that storms are part of life, and we all have them now and again.

In Mark 4:35-41 we read the account of when the disciples are caught in a storm. A furious (mega) squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were filled with fear and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" So the disciples experienced a great storm, a great calm and a great fear!

Following the Lord is no guarantee that we will not have storms; after all they went to the other side because Jesus said so. The eastern side of the Sea of Galilee was unfamiliar Gentile territory. To make matters worse, the storm happens in the evening, a time of darkness. We see that sometimes storms come when we are at our most vulnerable. Being a Christian does not necessarily exempt us from storms. We still face financial worries, emotional pain, difficulties, strained and broken relationships, and of course sin and weakness. The Lord never promised a life free of problems but rather that He would be with us in the storms.

The disciples were fearful. They were anxious. They lost faith in the Lord's plan. In all this Jesus seems to be unconcerned, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples should have realized that they were safe as long as Jesus was in the boat with them. However, even in their fear the disciples do show us that they realized who truly had the power to save them. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" Matt 8:24-25.

The promises of God and the Words of Jesus should be enough to calm our fear in any of life's storms. This passage teaches us to cry out to God in the storms of life. Whatever the storm is in your life at the moment, big or small, the Lord wants us through faith to rely on Him and His providential care.