

**JESUS CALMS THE STORMS // Luke 8:22-25**

*From the series, The Gospel of Luke*

It is a simple fact that at any given moment, everyone is either just coming out of a storm, about to enter a storm, or right in the middle of a storm. When we go through difficult seasons in our lives, we come face-to-face with the question of whether or not we believe that God is in control. This week we studied a familiar story and applied it to the storms that we face. We learned that God does not just use good things to shape and mold us, but He also uses storms to sanctify us. (Romans 8:28-29; James 1:2-4)

Observations for Studying your Storm:

**1. Jesus leads us into storms through our willing obedience to Him. (vs. 22)**

- a. Obedience moves the disciples toward danger, and the disciples followed Jesus anyway.
- b. Perhaps the storm was preparing the disciples for the demon-possessed man they would face on the other shore. We ought to view our storms from God's point of view – they might be preparation for something on the horizon.

**2. The most impactful storms appear suddenly and often without any advanced warning. (vs. 23)**

When the storm began, the disciples turned immediately to Jesus before they tried anything else. This is what God desires of us, too.

**3. The Lord is in the storm and in control of the storm. (vs. 24)**

Jesus was not on the shore – He was in the storm with the disciples. He is with us in our storms, too, and He is absolutely in control. This proves that he can be trusted in the storm.

**4. Jesus causes more storms than He calms. (vs. 25)**

- a. Note that there was more fear in the boat after Jesus calmed the storm because the disciples realized they were in the presence of God.
- b. You cannot learn this or experience God in this way if you do not get in the boat with Jesus in the first place.

Even though some storms are difficult to weather, God is sovereign. We also see through the example of the life and ministry of Paul that God is sovereign over not only the storm, but also the shipwreck. (Acts 27:39-44) As Christians, are we willing to say we trust Jesus and believe that God is in control, even in the midst of our storms and shipwrecks?

Living life with Christ reveals that the biggest threat is what is inside of us – we are severely broken. There are storms both within and around us – and Christ can calm them.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Has there been a time in your life when you felt that your obedience to Christ led you straight into a storm? What was that like?
2. Have you ever gone through a storm that prepared you for something else?
3. What does this passage teach us about God in relation to the storms we experience?