

Storms of Life

Around Christmas time in the year 1987. I was west bound on U S Highway 50. I was headed to Dodge City, Kansas. On what seemed to a nice day for December. When it started to spit a little moisture on the windshield. It was in the form of rain so I did not think to much about it. I keep right on driving, when suddenly about ten miles from Dodge City when the weather changed suddenly. I could no longer see past the windshield wipers on my car. So I slowed down rather quickly to say the least. It was a total white out! I tried to get a local radio station. But wouldn't you know it, they were giving a old forecast. Today for Dodge City and Garden City, cold and windy. We may see the sun this afternoon. Of course I am now thinking I have just hit the twilight zone. By now I have come to a complete stop. Tried to pull over as far as I could, when this crazy driver comes whipping around me. As I watch him go into the ditch, I had to laugh. I just could not help it. After seeing that he was all right. I figured I am going to be here for a while. I was beginning to take a inventory of what I had in the car to stay the night. I was lucky I had a blanket, soda, and some junk food , and lucky for me a roll of toilet tissue. Why I had the tissue for I will never know. But I had it along with a full tank of gas. It was about three hours later. The local radio station had updated it's forecast. Blizzard warnings were out. All roads were closed west of Larned to the State line. Twelve plus inches of snow was being predicted. Along with the winds drifting was a given. Everyone was being advised to stay inside. It looked as if I was going to stay the night. When a State Trooper knocked on my window. I rolled down my window hoping for some kind of good news. He said to me, " son if you idle west towards town you will run out of this bad wind. There is a grain elevator on the south side of the road. The wind sure liked to pour between the pillars." He also told me that he would follow me back to town. So I did what he told me. As I went about a mile down the road I was able to see a lot better. But still not what you would call a BBQ day on the back porch. The Disciples also went though a storm. They became very scared and displaced themselves.

Mark 4:35-41 35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 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?" 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" NIV

Now it is interesting that Jesus asked the Disciples, to take them across the other side. Jesus knew the storm was a certain thing. This shows us several things here.

The first is this... Sometimes Jesus sends us into a storm. The storm may be money troubles, marriage troubles, job troubles, and you maybe just being tested of your faith. Now some of these storm examples, maybe on own doing. Most times we are the cause of our troubles. Whatever the reason or the storms, they are meant for us to call on Him for help. He wants us to always call on Him.

The second thing is this.... No matter how bad the storm is, when you and I think there is no hope he is in the storm with us. Jesus got into the boat with His Disciples before the storm. He was with them after it as well. And we do not have to be afraid.

The third thing is this.... Jesus can stop the storm... No matter how bad it seems. When all hope is lost. He has the power to stop all storms that come our way.

Now lets look in Matthew's account.

Matthew 14:22-33 22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. 25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33 Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (NIV)

The fourth thing is this... No matter what time it is, He is there. Jesus is always with us. Never forsaking anyone.

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (KJV)

The fifth thing is this... Peter was not sure whom he was seeing. He even thought it was a ghost at first. But when Peter called out, Jesus replied to him. "It is I." When we call out for Jesus he is there in the middle of it all. Willing to take us to the other side of the storm.

The sixth thing is this... We must never lose sight of our Lord. We must never lose sight of our Lord. We must always be willing to hold out hand for Him to grab if we lose sight of Him. Some storms can be very dark for us to see through. As Peter looked at the storm and became afraid, he began to sink down into the water.

We all have been through some storms in our lives. Some storms are physical and some spiritual. Some we may not know why we are going through until years later we finally understand. I know one of the darkest times in my life was, when I went through a divorce. I thought I did not need God. I tried all kinds of things to help me get over one of the most difficult emotionally painful times that I that I have ever known. They all failed. I walked around lost, miserable, and was in an angry mood for a long time. Until one day I thanked God for showing me a way in buying a new home. It was shortly after that, I met Beverly and together we looked for a church to worship. We both knew each other's past, and knew if we wanted a future we must do something different. God was the answer. Today we both are the happiest we have ever been in our lives. It is now that I thank God for the storm that I went through. I learned many of valuable lessons. And any storms that may come our way, we now know that He will be there. Things won't seem as rough and overwhelming if we keep our eyes on God.

Luke 8:24-25 24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25 "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him." (NIV)

Not only the physical things such as a storm that knocks the boat. But the power to forgive sins resulting from our storms, and cast out the evil one out of our lives.

Mark 1:25-27 25 "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26 The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each

other, "What is this? A new teaching -- and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." (NIV)

So let me ask you... When you walk through a storm do you hold your head up high and not be afraid of the dark? At the end of the storm, do go on and praise the Lord? Do you walk on through the rain? But you will never walk alone! Psalm 55:22-23 22 Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. 23 But you, O God, will bring down the wicked into the pit of corruption; bloodthirsty and deceitful men will not live out half their days. But as for me, I trust in you. (NIV) We should be able to walk on, through the storms as His children. Why don't we call on Him before we lose our way. Walk on with hope, in your heart. because you will never walk alone. If you feel that you are walking alone. Is it because you have never been baptized? If you have never been baptized. The time is now. If you have been baptized. But lost your way in the storm. Jesus is here in the boat with you. If only you will call out to Him.

Joe Broz

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