

Jesus uses storms to help us know Him



Lord, Save Me, by Gary Kapp, © Gary Kapp

My reading this morning (Sat 4th March) was “Jesus Walks on the Water “ **Matthew 14:22-32** and I found Warren Wiersbe’s commentary very helpful and would like to share this Bible reading and some of his comments with you plus some conclusions for us.

As you read the Bible passage you will no doubt see other points as well that relate to our lives today, so read it slowly a few times and write down for yourself what you find significant and maybe you can share with others, online or by phone etc.

Jesus had just finished feeding 5,000 men plus women and children even though he had been trying to get some time alone after hearing about the death of his cousin, John the Baptist.

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. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn 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 worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Warren’s commentary:

“He brought us here - “As we read our Bibles, we discover that there are two types of storms: storms of correction, when God disciplines us, and storms of perfection, when God helps us grow. Jonah was in a storm because he disobeyed God and had to be corrected. The disciples were in a storm because they obeyed Christ and had to be perfected. Jesus had tested them in a storm before, when He was in the boat with them (Matt 8:23-27). But now He tested them by being *out of the boat*.

Many Christians have the mistaken idea that obedience to God’s will produces “smooth sailing”. But this is not true. “In the world you shall have trouble”, Jesus promised (John 16:33). When we find ourselves in the storm because we have obeyed the Lord, we must remember that He brought us here and He can care for us.

He is praying for me – This entire scene is a picture of the church and the Lord today. God’s people are on the sea, in the midst of the storm. Yet Jesus Christ is in heaven “making intercession for us” (Romans 8:34). He saw the disciples and knew their plight (Mark 6:48-52), just as He sees us and knows our needs. He feels the burdens that we feel and knows what we are going through (Hebrews 4:14-16). Jesus was praying for his disciples, that their faith would not fail.

If you knew Jesus was in the next room, praying for you, would it not give you new courage to endure the storm and do his will? Of course it would. He is not in the next room, but He is

in heaven interceding for you. He sees your need, He knows your fears, and He is in control of the situation.

He will come to me – In the Psalms, David complained that God seemed far away and unconcerned. Yet he knew that God would ultimately rescue him. Even the great apostle Paul got into a situation so difficult he felt “burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life” (2 Cor 1:8)

Jesus always comes to us in the storm of life. “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you” (Isaiah 43:2). He may not come at the time we think He should come, because he knows when we need him the most. He waited until the ship was as far from land as possible, so that all human hope was gone. He was testing the disciples’ faith, and this meant removing every human prop.

Why did Jesus walk on the water? To show His disciples that the very thing they feared (the sea) was only a staircase for Him to come to them. Often we discover the things we fear bring us closer to Jesus Christ. “ - End of commentary

Some conclusions and comments:

Being where Jesus wants us is always the safest place to be.

Peter was as safe on the water as the other disciples were who stayed in the boat, however he was the one who had the experience with Christ.

As someone mentioned, you can’t experience “walking with Jesus on water” unless you are prepared to get out of the boat.

Jesus didn’t send them into the storm to scare them but to show them who he was (Mark 6:52 says they still didn’t understand even after Jesus fed the 5000+). It’s interesting that the actual words Jesus said to them was “ Don’t be afraid, ‘I am’ “. Meaning the great “I am” is with you. When Jesus and Peter got back in the boat they worshipped Jesus as truly being the Son of God.



In Psalm 62:6 when David was running for his life from his own son, Absalom, who would have killed him for the throne, he could declare of God, “He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.” He had this trust in God because of his previous experiences with God’s help. As Warren Wiersbe points out God is using the challenges in our life to teach us and allow us to grow in our trust in God.