



Series: Storms
Eyes on the King
Read Matthew 14:22-33
Speaker: Pastor Mark Burch

Check out the sermon here: <https://northview.org/eyes-on-the-king/>

A Note from Pastor Dan: Hello! Welcome to our sermon reflection. This is intended for you to spend time reflecting upon the weekend teaching of God's Word. So, it's important to have watched or listened to the message from the previous weekend. In the coming weeks, I would encourage you to use one of our Sermon Guides as you watch/listen to the sermon in order to keep focused and to note important information.

As you work through this lesson, feel free to ask your parents any questions and include them in your observations.

Read: Matthew 14:22-33 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Walks on the Water

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."

- If you have been raised in church, you will have heard this familiar story of Peter and Jesus before.

- There is always someone who is experiencing a “storm” in life.
- The difference is that we are all on the same page now as we face the crisis of the pandemic.
- Collectively we are grieving in this time of crisis.

Setting the scene:

- Jesus is 2/3 of the way through his public ministry. He is a rockstar right now!
- End of a long, challenging day:
 - Jesus heard that his cousin, John the Baptist had been beheaded. John wasn't just his cousin, but also a forerunner in ministry.
 - Jesus had been ministering all day
 - Jesus fed the 5000
- Jesus is seeking to take some time alone with his disciples but the crowd has followed him

Point #1 Jesus sent them out into the storm

- Not only does Jesus **lead** us into the storm but He also **sends** us

Big Theological Question:

- If Jesus knew there was going to be a storm (and he did!) the why did he send the disciples out in the boat?
- Does God allow and, in fact, orchestrate “storms” in our lives?
- Check out the account of Joseph being sold into slavery by his brothers in Genesis 37. And yet Joseph forgives his brothers & says:

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

- Check out the account of Paul’s thorn in his flesh, which we don't know exactly what it was.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 (NIV)

⁷.... Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.

Point #2 The Storm is Real

Matthew 14:24 (NIV)

*and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, **buffeted** by the waves because the wind was against it.*

- It was almost like the waves were beating/tormenting the boat. In the Sea of Galilee the storms can happen within minutes.
- The winds are like the chinooks that Alberta experiences.
- We all have to be honest that we are in a storm that is affecting all of our lives.

Point #3 The Storm is a Test

Matthew 14:28-31 (NIV)

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?"

- Jesus puts a challenge to Peter and while Peter kept his focus on Jesus, he did fine. The trouble came when he paid too much attention to the storm and not Jesus.
- This is a truth all of us have to be aware of in our lives.

Through It All

Andraé Crouch

I've had many tears and sorrows, I've had questions for tomorrow, there's been times I didn't know right from wrong. But in every situation, God gave me blessed consolation, that my trials come to only make me strong. Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God. Through it all, through it all, I've learned to depend upon His Word. I've been to lots of places, I've seen a lot of faces, there's been times I felt so all alone. But in my lonely hours, yes, those precious lonely hours, Jesus lets me know that I was His own. Through it all, through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God.

► Ecclesiastes 1:4-5, 9 (NIV)

⁴ Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever. ⁵ The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.... ⁹ What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.

► Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Mark's Implications of his message:

- Where are our eyes focused during this time?
- We have a tremendous opportunity to share the hope that we have at this time.
- We have to release control to our heavenly Father.
- Be intentional in meeting with others in whatever capacity we can
- Keep our lives saturated in prayer