

## FROM CHAOS TO CALMNESS

### Matthew 14:22-23

**Introduction:** Three pre-ministerial college students went fishing one evening after their classes were over and they were on a very large lake, fishing at night. The three were enjoying the quietness of the lake and the brightness of the beautiful moon, fishing and talking about their classes and families. All was still and quiet and then quickly clouds covered the moon's brightness, winds began to blow and in a matter of minutes there were waves tossing the boat up and down and water began to splash into the boat. Immediately the men began to try to find a place of safety. With their outboard motor running at top speed and the men dipping out the incoming splashing water as fast as they could they finally found a small cove and headed the boat into it as best they could. Finally they were out of the wind and waves. There they stayed for a while until the storm and winds passed. They quickly headed for the boat dock and home as they had had enough. Our text speaks of a similar incident that happened to the disciples of Jesus.

### I. THE CHAOS

1. The disciples had gone fishing at night and all had been well when they left the shore. Time went by as they fished and talked and then suddenly there came upon them a storm.
  - Dark, black clouds with lightening, winds, waves, all things broke loose in their boat.
  - The boat tossed, filled with water quickly, the sail was useless, even broken.
  - They were adrift in the storm, absolutely helpless and began to fear for their lives.
2. As the disciples hung on to whatever they could to keep from being swept overboard one of the disciples screamed out, "a ghost, there's a ghost out there." They all began to cry out in more fear. "It looks like a man...it looks like Jesus...walking on the waves..." someone cried out.
3. Peter was usually the first to speak, to act and even though he was scared and if this was really Jesus, then the safest place to be thought Peter was to be with Jesus.
  - Peter asked to come to Jesus.
  - Over the side of the boat he went.
  - Peter began to walk on the waves toward Jesus then as lightening flashed, he suddenly realized what he was doing and began to sink. He cried out to Jesus and Jesus reached down and pulled Peter to Him.

### II. THE CALMNESS

1. As soon as Jesus and Peter got into the boat, immediately there was calmness.
  - The storm ceased, the waves stilled, the winds died, the lightening stopped.
  - Once again the sea was motionless, perfectly calm, the moon and stars were again shining.
  - Jesus was there and all was well.
2. The disciples fell on their knees before Jesus and worshipped Him there in the boat. Never before had they done that, not even during all the miracles or sermons or teachings of Jesus.

- Why now? Before it had been others who had been on the receiving end of Jesus' powers but now it was them, the disciples. They had been rescued by Jesus. One minute they were drowning and the next all was calm and peaceful again.
- Worship was all they knew to do at that moment. It was so appropriate.

### **III. THE APPLICATION**

1. When one recognizes God, he/she will admire Him, recognize His wisdom, learn from Him, and rely upon His strength.
2. When God saves you, you will worship Him. Before, God was kept at a distance, dismissed or ignored.
  - God was in a way important, but so was your job, career, status, own plans. He was on your list of priorities but just along with many others, not at the head of the list.
3. Storms of life come upon you, overpowering, smothering, ripping away all your strength with no seemingly way of escape or relief.
  - Are the storms of life impressed by your job, career, status, own plans? Do the storms of life go away because of the important things in your life?
4. There is but one option when the storms of life come and that is God. When you genuinely ask, God comes into your situation and from that moment on, God is just one to admire or one to teach, or to be observed, or to even follows, He is your Savior and is to be worshipped.

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. What has been the result of storms in your life?
2. What do you usually do when your life is tossed about? Do you ever step out onto the water and walk toward Jesus?
3. Many put Peter down for his lack of faith that caused him to sink. Well, at least Peter got out of the boat! That's more than what most people do when troubles come.
4. Has there ever been a time in your life that God came to you in a very special way? Were you ever the same again?
5. What price would you be willing to pay to see God clearly in your life? Is going through a storm worth it?
  - A season of storminess, suffering is a small price to pay for having a clear view of Jesus reaching out to help you.
6. Remember, sometimes you have to get out of the boat in the middle of the storm and start toward Jesus before He reaches out to help you.