The EYES of the STORM

Matthew 14:22-33

(22) Immediately **Jesus made** His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. (23) And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.

A) Gospel of Mark indicates: "go before Him to the other side, to Bethsaida" Bethsaida was a town across from Capernaum from where they were at.

(24) But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

A) Jesus, "Made them go without Him."

We go through storms because of our disobedience. Then there are storms we must go through.

B) The boat was tossed by the waves:

Mark 6:48

(48) **Then He saw them straining at rowing**, for the wind was against them

We sometimes think God does not see us struggling in storms, but He does.

Psalms 13:1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?..... Psalms 13:5-6 But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. (6) I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me.

<u>God's timing is not our timing.</u>

(25) Now in the **fourth watch** of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. (26) And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

A) Mark records: Now about the **fourth watch of the night He came to them**, walking on the sea, and would have **passed them by.**

The scriptures indicate that He would have passed by them, but they cried out in fear.

How many times have you or will you let Christ pass you by.

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(27) But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! **It is I; (ego eimi = I AM)** do not be afraid." (28) And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

A) It is important to point out that Peter was not questioning whether this was Jesus or not. He was questioning whether this was Jesus walking in the flesh and not just a vision or spirit.

So his question, "If this is really you, tell me to come" makes sense.

We, like Peter, also question God. Are you there? Do you hear me? If you are with me, show me?

(29) So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, **he walked on the water** to go to Jesus. (30) But when **he saw** that the wind was boisterous, **he was afraid**; and

beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"....

(31) And i**mmediately** Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, **why did you doubt?" (distazo = torn between two)**

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(32) And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. (33) Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, **"Truly You are the Son of God."**

They came out of the storm know more about Jesus than in the calm and blessings.

IN CONCLUSION,

