



**“Jesus Controls Life’s Storms”**

Matthew 14:22–33

*The Authority of the King*

**Introduction**

In Matthew 14, Matthew moves through topics quickly.

- Persecution of the disciples (vv.1–12) with the beheading of John the Baptist.
- Provision for the disciples (vv.13–21) when Jesus fed the five thousand.
- And now the Protection of the disciples (vv.22–33) when Jesus calms the storm.

Psalm 46:10 – “Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

*We’re going to look at five assurances from the King when you’re facing life’s storms.*

**1. Jesus brought you here (vv.22–23)**

“Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away” (v.22).

John 6:15 – “So Jesus, perceiving that they were intending to come and take Him by force to make Him king, withdrew again to the mountain by Himself alone.”

“After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone” (v.23).

John 16:33 – “In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

2 Timothy 3:12 – “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

**2. Jesus prays for you (vv.22–23)**

“Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side” (v.22).

“Then He went up on a mountain by Himself to pray” (v.23).

Psalm 34:18 – “The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

Romans 8:30a – “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son,”

**3. Jesus comes to you (vv.24–26)**

“But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary” (v.24).

Mark 6:47–48 – “When it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land. <sup>48</sup>Seeing them straining at the oars, for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea and He intended to pass by them.”

Romans 8:18 – “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.”

1 Peter 2:21 – “For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,”

“And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea” (v.25).

“When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear” (v.26).

1 Corinthians 15:55 – “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?”

#### **4. Jesus teaches you (v.27)**

“But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid’” (v.27).

Romans 15:4 – “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

#### **5. Jesus delivers you (vv.28–33)**

Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water’” (v.28).

“And He said, ‘Come!’ And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus” (v.29).

Romans 10:17 – “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

“But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’” (v.30).

“Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’” (v.31)

1 Peter 5:7 – “casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

“When they got into the boat, the wind stopped” (v.32).

John 6:21 – “So they were willing to receive Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going.”

“And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, ‘You are certainly God’s Son!’” (v.33)

Matthew 14:34–36 – “When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. <sup>35</sup>And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent word into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick; <sup>36</sup>and they implored Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured.”

#### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Jesus had just fed the five thousand. Considering the crowd’s perception of this miraculous sign, what were they intending to do? (John 6:15). What danger to Jesus’ mission did this pose?
2. What temptation would it have been for Jesus to have His own disciples and a great multitude clamoring for Him to be king? (see Matthew 4:8–9)
3. What was Jesus’ reaction to the temptation (John 6:15)? What can we learn from this?
4. What was the experience of the disciples in the boat (Matthew 14:24–25)? What time was it?
5. Why did Peter ask Jesus to command him to come to Him on the water (Matthew 14:28–29)?
6. What happened when Peter took his eyes off Jesus (Matthew 14:30)?
7. What storms are you facing right now? Are your eyes on the storm or on Jesus?
8. Brian mentioned ‘correcting storms’ and ‘perfecting storms’. What’s the difference?
9. What are some things you’ve learned from the storms in your life (be specific).
10. Brian compared this story to the current church. Jesus is in heaven praying for us while we endure the storms of life here on earth. How does that make you feel?
11. In the midst of life’s storms, are you willing to reach out and touch Jesus (Matthew 14:34–36)?