

MYSTERY & MAJESTY

– 9 –

Lord in the Storm

**All verses use the English Standard Version (ESV)
unless otherwise indicated**

- Matthew 8 Jesus calms the storm.
- Peter is often preached as the centre of this story.
- Jesus is the centre of this story.
- This is about Jesus' identity.

Sea of Galilee:

- a large lake
- located 700ft below sea level surrounded by hills and mountains.
- Because of that geography, cool air can rush down through the valleys and collide with the warmer air above the lake, causing strong winds and sudden storms to develop with very little warning.

- The water can go from calm to dangerous in a short time.

Matthew 14:22-23 22 Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

- Immediately dismisses them.
- He is urging the disciples to leave in a boat. He wants them to leave quickly.
- John tells us they wanted to seize Jesus and make him King.
- He goes to pray.
- He isn't living for the glory of a crowd, but of his father.
- We need discernment.
- Jesus sustains a successful ministry without burnout through prayer.

Matthew 14:24 but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them.

- Jesus is the one sending them in the boat.

- The disciples are struggling precisely where Jesus told them to go.
- Obedience does not guarantee an easy crossing.
- Sometimes obedience places you directly against the wind.
- Not every hardship is the devil.
- Some is God revealing Christ to you, forming in you the character of Christ, maturing your faith.

Matthew 14:25-26 25 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear.

- Roman military divided the night into four watches of 3 hours from 6pm to 6am.
- The fourth watch is between 3am and 6am.
- They’ve been on the sea for approx. 9 hours.
- In the Old Testament, mastery over the sea is a distinctive sign of God’s power.
- Isaiah 43, Psalm 77 & 89, Job 9.

Matthew 14:27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

- The Lord comforts them in their fears.
- He is doing what only God does.

Matthew 14:28-29 28 And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” 29 He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

- Peter walking on water is unique to Matthew.
- Your response to the call of Jesus can determine what God allows you to do and see.
- Peter is not perfect.
- “If it is You...” Genuine faith mixed with uncertainty.
- Peter’s action is valid because it is authorized by Jesus.
- This story is about Jesus identity as the Christ.

Matthew 14:30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.”

- He’s distracted.
- Jesus is still sustaining him so the wind and waves don’t sweep him away.
- Short but effective prayer.

Matthew 14:31-33 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little

faith, why did you doubt?” 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

- He saves him immediately.
- Grace and salvation reaches Peter before the correction.
- Jesus does not require perfect faith before responding to a desperate cry.
- Peter’s faith is genuine.
- This isn’t a matter of unbelief, rather a hesitance.
- This declaration anticipates Matthew 16:16.
- Jesus accompanies Peter to safety.