



## A Stand Alone Message | Walking Through A Storm | Brady Boyd | 05.31.26

Matthew 8:23-27

### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and minister to each person's specific needs.

### Icebreaker

Share a time when you experienced an unexpected storm (literal or figurative) that caught you completely off guard. How did you initially react?

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### Sermon Recap

Pastor Brady shared about Jesus calming the storm, emphasizing four main points:

1. We live in a very stormy world
  2. Jesus is not surprised by our storms
  3. We're not going to drown
  4. Jesus is enough
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### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

✓ **Storms are inevitable** – We live in a fallen world, and difficulties will come, but they don't surprise God.

✓ **Your worst day won't be your last day** – The same resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead is available to you.

✓ **Community matters** - "You find out who your friends are when you think you're drowning." Invest in genuine friendships.

✓ **Jesus is sufficient** - When everything else falls away, Christ alone is enough to sustain us.

✓ **The Holy Spirit is your rescue team** - God sends help from unexpected sources when we need it most.

## Discussion Questions

### Section 1: Identifying Your Season

Pastor Brady identified three groups of people:

#### 1. Which group do you identify with right now?

- Group 1: Life is good; things are going well
- Group 2: In the middle of a storm
- Group 3: On the other side of a storm with a testimony

#### 2. How does it feel to acknowledge where you are honestly? What makes it difficult or easy to be transparent about your current season?

### Section 2: The Nature of Storms

#### 3. Pastor Brady said, "Suddenly, a furious storm came up." What "suddenly" moments have shaped your life? How did those unexpected events change your perspective?

#### 4. Discuss the difference between healthy fear and irrational fear. Can you share an example of each from your own life? How do you discern between the two?

5. **Pastor Brady mentioned that we live in an increasingly stormy world (broken families, divided relationships, attacks on foundational values). How have you personally witnessed or experienced this cultural storm?**

### **Section 3: Jesus in the Storm**

6. Jesus was sleeping during the storm. What does this tell us about His perspective on our crises? How can we develop that same peace?
7. When Jesus asked, "Why are you so afraid?" He wasn't dismissing their fear but challenging their faith. What fears in your life need to be challenged by greater faith?
8. Pastor Brady said, "You've already survived the worst days of your life." Reflect on a past storm you survived. How did God show up? What did you learn that helps you today?

### **Section 4: Practical Application**

9. The bison illustration: Most animals run from storms, but bison turn and walk into them, getting through faster. What would it look like for you to "turn and face" what you're running from?
10. Pastor Brady shared his practice of reading a Psalm out loud daily and praying it back to God. What spiritual disciplines have helped you (or could help you) stay focused on Jesus during difficult times?
11. "Sometimes when all you have is Jesus is when you realize Jesus is all you need." Has there been a time when you discovered this truth? Share your experience.

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### **Practical Applications**

**This Week, Each Person Should:**

## 1. Daily Bible Reading Practice

- Choose one Psalm to read out loud each morning
- Pray the verses back to God in your own words
- Journal one thing God spoke to you through the passage

## 2. Identify Your Storm Response

- Write down what storm you're facing (or have faced)
- Ask: Am I running from it or facing it with Christ?
- Take one concrete step to "turn and face" the challenge with faith

## 3. Reach Out

- If you're in Group 1 (blessed season): Check on someone going through a storm
- If you're in Group 2 (in the storm): Reach out to a trusted friend or pastor
- If you're in Group 3 (past the storm): Share your testimony with someone who needs hope

## 4. Practice Presence Over Panic

- When anxiety rises, pause and declare: "Jesus, my eyes are on You today"
- Ask throughout the day: "What would Jesus say/do here?"
- **Visit the Forgotten**
  - Following the nursing home story, commit to visiting someone who might be lonely or forgotten (nursing home resident, shut-in church member, etc.)

### Memory Verse

*"He replied, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm." - Matthew 8:26*

## Prayer Focus

### Pray for each person based on their identified group:

- **Group 1:** Thanksgiving and wisdom to steward blessings well; hearts prepared to help others
- **Group 2:** Supernatural peace, awareness of God's presence, courage to face the storm, and divine rescue teams
- **Group 3:** Gratitude for God's faithfulness and opportunities to share their testimony

**Close by declaring together:** "We will not drown. Jesus is enough. The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in us."

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## Before Next Week

- Share one testimony from this week in your group chat about how God met you in a specific way
  - Pray daily for each member of your small group by name
  - Be prepared to share next week: "One thing I learned about Jesus through this storm"
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## Leader Notes

- Create a safe space for vulnerability – not everyone will be comfortable sharing their storm immediately
  - Have tissues available; this topic may bring up emotions
  - Follow up individually with anyone in Group 2 who seems particularly struggling
  - Consider connecting Group 1 members with Group 2 members for prayer partnerships
  - Encourage but don't pressure participation in sharing
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