

**John-13**  
**“Invite Jesus Into Your Storms”**  
**John 6:16-21 (NIV)**

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those who are watching with us online!

We're walking through the Gospel of John this year...

**Series Verse**

***31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.***

Last week, Pastor Jacob broke down one of Jesus' most famous miracles...the feeding of the 5,000...

Jesus takes a little boy's lunch and multiplies it to feed over 5,000 people...One of the big takeaways was that Jesus sees our need!

As the chapter continues, we're going to see another one of Jesus' most famous miracles...Jesus walks on water!

***John 6:14-21 (NIV)***

## **Pray**

Now if you're familiar with this story, you'll notice that John's testimony is lacking some of the details that Matthew and Mark give us...

Critics of the Bible will say...see there's a contradiction...no contradiction...The Gospels don't contradict each other, they compliment each other...

Remember, Matthew, Mark & Luke have already been written...Most of what John writes about are things that the other Gospels didn't include...

No doubt, John's readers are already familiar with this miracle...So John leaves out certain details and focuses on the fact that Jesus walked on the water...Why?

Because His focus is that Jesus is God...Who can walk on water except God?

What we're going to do today, we will look at what John records and we will also look at some of those details that Matthew & Mark record...This way we can see the full picture of this incredible story!

Just to understand the flow of the story...

When we get to chapter six we see that...

Jesus' popularity is at an all time high...

He's trending on social media...

He's the guest speaker on all of the podcasts...

Crowds of people were seeking after Jesus because they saw His healing miracles...

Then Jesus miraculously feeds everyone...everyone gets a filet-o-fish minus the fries and coke...

***14 After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."***

***15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself-Jn 6:14-15 (NIV)***

The people had the right Messiah but the wrong motive...

They realized that Jesus is King...so they want Him to overthrow Rome...But Jesus didn't come to win a physical war...He came to win a spiritual war!

The crowd wanted the crown without the cross...

Now even the disciples didn't understand this yet...so from their perspective this was amazing...the people were finally getting it! Jesus is the Messiah...let's go take back what the enemy has stolen from us!

Jesus is like no...you guys don't get it...I don't want you getting the wrong idea about Me...Here's a little detail that John leaves out...

Both Matthew and Mark tell us that Jesus insisted that His disciples get into the boat and head to the other side...

The disciples probably don't understand what the big deal is, or why Jesus needs to have some quiet time with God up on the mountain... but they're like alright...let's go!

***17 where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them-Jn 6:17 (NIV)***

Life is full of **STORMS**

***18 A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough-Jn 6:17-18 (NIV)***

## **Jones Beach Storm**

Storms are dangerous...

The wind, the waves, the lightning...

Now some of the disciples are experienced fishermen...and they're rowing and struggling...John tells us they're three or four miles out...they had to be exhausted...

Some of you feel like that today...

You barely made it in...You're like uggg...

Now imagine how it must have been for the disciples...they're rowing...they're getting tossed around...the wind is blowing...the waves are crazy...

## **Kayaking in the Delaware River**

So these guys were on a spiritual high...

They just saw Jesus feed 10,000 people...

The last thing they expected was a storm...

Isn't that how life is sometimes?

Everything's good and then boom a storm hits out of nowhere...

Some of you were told that once you give your life to Jesus everything will be awesome!

They forgot to tell you "after you die"

Between accepting Jesus and everything being awesome...we will experience “storms”

Financial storms...unemployed

Relational storms...a friend betrays you

Marital storms...your spouse leaves you

Parental storms...your child is rebellious

Physical storms...you're sick...not well

Emotional storms...depression, anxiety

We've all experienced a storm...

A hardship...

You know what it feels like to have winds of worry hit you out of nowhere...

You know what it's like to fight the waves of doubt and fear...

You know what it's like to experience the darkness of isolation...

James calls these storms “trials of many kinds”...

***2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds,-Jas 1:2 (NIV)***

He calls them trials of many kinds  
Because they are different...

Some trials are big, some are small, some are brief some last a long time...some are physical, some are emotional, some are spiritual

Storms come and they don't even care that we've made plans...that we have an agenda...

Some of you had things all planned out and then boom a storm has hit you and actually knocked you off your course...

Think of the Apostle Paul...

He planned to go to Rome...He even wrote that in his letter...that was his plan. You know what he didn't plan?

He didn't plan on getting arrested in Jerusalem...He didn't plan on going to jail for two years...

He planned on going to Rome as an Apostle and a Missionary not a prisoner...

Storms can knock us off course...

For some of you that's what happened...

You were supposed to get that job...

You were supposed to get married...

You were supposed to retire happily ever after...

What happened? A storm knocked you off course...

Sometimes we can navigate a storm...

Sometimes the storm is beyond our ability to navigate them...

Some of the disciples have navigated storms before...they are seasoned fishermen...they've fished this lake many times before...

But this storm was different...they were exhausted and had only gotten three or four miles...The storm was bigger than they were...

How many of you can relate to that?

You tried your best...

You did everything you could...

Only to get to a place you don't want to be...

But the storm is just bigger than your ability to navigate it...

Now some people will say that you're in the storm because you did something wrong...

Now pause for a second...

Is it possible that we can create our own storm?

Sure it is...

Sometimes the storm is a consequence of our actions...but not all of the time...

Why did the disciples get into the boat in the first place? Because Jesus told them too!

***45 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and head across the lake to Bethsaida, while he sent the people home-Mk 6:45 (NLT)***

Sometimes you can be in the will of God and still get hit by a storm...

Sometimes the storm comes not because you did something wrong...but because you're doing something right!

Sometimes Jesus sends us into a storm...Not to break us but to build us...

**2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, (storms)3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything-Jas 1:2-4 (NIV)**

God called us from Syracuse NY to the Bronx in 2009...We trusted His call...put our 4 bedroom house up for sale and moved into a tiny little apartment...

Storms start coming...

The Housing Market crashes...we can't sell our home...can't afford our mortgage and our rent...

Then another wave hits...

Kids having trouble adjusting to NYC schools...  
Another wave hits...our youngest daughter  
starts to get bullied...they call her white girl...

Okay we get our barrings...  
Another wave hits...Our oldest daughter is  
sexually assaulted on the train...

Deal with that...  
Here comes another wave...My wife enters into  
severe depression...We have to move after one  
year...

That was just year one...  
You can imagine how many times we were  
asking ourselves "God what are You doing?"

"God did you really call us here?"

"God I did what you told me to do and now its  
all a mess"

“God I did what You told me to do and now it’s all hard”

“God I did what You told me to do and it’s not working...yet”

Looking back on it now...year 1 was rough...but every single storm helped to build us...

We’re going on year 17...and there’s been multiple storms...crazy storms...storms that have made us want to quit...But through it all we’ve learned to trust Him in the storm!

You may be in a storm right now...Sometimes the storm hits because we made a bad decision...sometimes the storm hits because of the enemy of our soul, and the sin sick world we live in...

But sometimes we hit a storm because we are in the perfect will of God!

Life is full of all kinds of storms...That's the bad news...here's some good news...

Jesus **SEES** you in the storm

***47 Late that night, the disciples were in their boat in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land. 48 He saw that they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves.-Mark 6:47-48 (NLT)***

Picture this...

Jesus is up on the mountain...He's spending time with the Father...and His disciples are three to four miles away...it's dark it's like 3 in the morning...a storm is raging

And Jesus sees what they're going through!  
If you're going through a storm right now...I want you to know that Jesus sees what you're going through!

But I can't see Him...but He can see you!  
But He seems far away...but He can see you!  
But this storm is dark...but He can see you!  
But I'm surrounded by the storm...but He sees you!

How can He see me? He's God...He sees everything! He saw them struggling trying to push through...and He sees you struggling to push through...

Remember Job? Would you say Job was in a storm? He sure was! In chapter 23 he's in the middle of a big storm...

***8 I go east, but he is not there. I go west, but I cannot find him. 9 I do not see him in the north, for he is hidden. I look to the south, but he is concealed.*** Maybe that's how you feel right now...You're looking for God in the middle of your storm...God I need Your peace...I need Your presence...

That's what Job was feeling too... and He couldn't find God in that moment... So this is what Job says and I hope it ministers to you right now... He says **10 "But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold-Job 23:8-10 (NLT)**

Did you get that? I can't find God! I can't see God! But God sees me and I'm ok with that... He knows everything.

That's a good thing to think about in the middle of your storm... God sees and God knows!

Jesus said in **Matthew 10** that God knows the number of the hairs of your head... Now for some, that math is getting easier every year but God knows that!

David said...

**8 You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle.**

***You have recorded each one in your book-Ps 56:8 (NLT)***

He knows every time we're sorrowful and every tear that we cry. God sees and He knows...

God said through the Prophet Jeremiah...

***11 For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. -Je 29:11 (NLT)***

I'm telling you that if you're in a storm today...let that reality give you hope...let it give you strength...I know you can't see Him...

I know He seems like He's far away...but He sees you in the storm!

Jesus is **PRAYING** for you in the storm

Now that may come as a surprise to you...Wait...Jesus knows I'm in this storm and He's praying for me? Yup!

Again lets look at Mark's testimony...

***46 After telling everyone good-bye, he went up into the hills by himself to pray-Mk 6:46 (NLT)***

Now the text doesn't tell us exactly what Jesus was praying...but we can be sure that part of His prayer time included praying for His disciples...because He could see the struggle and knew what they were going through in that storm...

These are His friends...He cares about them...in fact later on in **John 17** He prays for them...

He prays for their safety and protection!

In **Luke 22**...Jesus tells Peter that the devil wants to sift him like wheat...but that He has prayed for Him...

Let me ask you a question...have you ever had someone tell you that they were praying for you? Doesn't that just lift your spirits?

Now think about this fact...

How would knowing that Jesus is praying for you in the middle of your storm help give you strength to get through it?

I love what 19th Century Preacher Robert Murray M'Cheyne said...

*"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me."*

Jesus is praying for you! Let that sink in!

***25 Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf-Heb 7:25 (NLT)***

Intercede means to pray on behalf of... That's what Jesus lives for! He's at the Father's right hand and He lives to pray for you!

Every trial you have...

Every situation you're in...

Jesus is talking to the Father about you!

Remember that Jesus knows what living on this earth feels like... He knows what it means to go through storms... So when He talks to the Father about you and I... He knows how you feel!

Jesus sees you...

Jesus is praying for you...

Jesus will **MEET YOU** in the storm

Isn't that good news...

Jesus doesn't just stand on the shore and yell  
row harder!

***19 When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. 20 But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." -Jn 6:19-20 (NIV)***

Now again...Mark gives us an important detail...

Mark tells us that it was 3am...

Now why does Mark tell us that? He wants you to know how long the disciples had been out there...

This means that the disciples had been caught in this storm for about 8-12 hours...

It wasn't until they were near exhaustion, at the very end of their wits and could go no further, that Jesus showed up...

Now I'm sure if they had their choice they would have said...Okay it's around 6...Jesus I need You to show up at like 6:15...Let's get this test over with...

**God doesn't show up in the way we expect...but He does show up exactly how we need!**

**Sometimes the storm takes a long time... but at the right time...Jesus will meet you in the storm!**

Think about this...

If God has you in a storm...He has His eye on the boat and His hand on the waves!

He holds you with one hand and the waves in the other...and although the storm is big it's not bigger than Jesus!

Did you ever wonder why Jesus walked out on the water?

It wasn't because He was showing off...

Jesus was showing them that He was bigger than the storm...

He was showing them that the very thing that they were afraid of was under His feet!

How many times have you heard someone going through their darkest storms...only to experience God in a deeper, more powerful way...

Charles Spurgeon said

*"I've learned to kiss the wave that throws me against the Rock of Ages"*

Nobody likes storms...

But what if it's the storm that brings us closer to Jesus?

What if it's the storm that teaches us to keep looking for Jesus?

Corrie ten Boom was part of a family that sheltered Jews in World War II. They were arrested. She was put in a concentration camp for that.

She said...

*If God ever sends you on stony paths, He'll provide good shoes.*

So Jesus comes walking on the water but Mark tells us that the disciples don't recognize Him!

**49 but when they saw him walking on the water, they cried out in terror, thinking he was a ghost. 50 They were all terrified when they saw him.-Mk 6:49–50 (NLT)**

Some people go through a storm and never recognize that Jesus has showed up... They're like God never shows up when I need Him...Meanwhile Jesus is like...Hello...I'm right here...It's a ghost...No it's Me...It's Jesus!

If you're in a storm and you don't see Jesus, it doesn't mean He's not there...Keep looking!

Don't measure God's presence by your storm...

Now Matthew's testimony includes what both Mark and John have said...but Matthew gives us an interesting detail...

Once the disciples realize that Jesus isn't a Ghost...

***27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here!" 28 Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if***

***it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."***

**29 "Yes, come," Jesus said.** You may be here today and you're not a Christian...Jesus is inviting you to come! Some of you have walked away...Jesus is inviting you to come back...

***So Peter went over the side of the boat***

Peter's a fisherman...He knows this isn't how you do it...

***and walked on the water toward Jesus. 30***

***But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink.***

***"Save me, Lord!"*** That's a call Jesus will always answer...***he shouted.***

**31 Jesus immediately** Notice that Jesus didn't give Peter a lecture? Peter you were doing so good...If you remembered the Psalms you would've remembered that I'm the One who controls the sea...No! Jesus answers Peter's cry for salvation immediately!

**31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”-Mt 14:27–31 (NLT)**

When the storm comes you've got to look to Jesus and keep your eyes on Jesus!  
Peter looks at Jesus and He's filled with faith...

He takes his eyes off of Jesus and looks at the storm and he's filled with fear...

We do this all of the time...

We look to Jesus and then stop looking at Him

I love you Lord I trust You completely...

Storm comes...Lord my life is over...I'm not going to make it...Oh thank You Lord...You're my rock...Ahhh I'm going to die!

How do I keep my eyes on Jesus in the storm?  
Read the Word...Pray...Worship...

Serve...

Seek God's presence so that you can experience peace in the middle of our storm!

Peace doesn't come from escaping the storm  
It comes from recognizing Jesus and inviting Him into your storm

You're in a storm today...

Remember that Jesus sees you...

Remember that Jesus is praying for you...

Remember that Jesus will come to you...

Jesus will get you past the **STORM**

***21 Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading.***

***-Jn 6:21 (NIV)***

The good news is that this storm will pass...It will not last forever!" That storm didn't last a week or a month or a year. Some storms do...

But all storms have a beginning and an end.  
Years later Peter...writes this...

***6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while-1 Pe 1:6 (NLT)***

Even if a storm lasts the rest of your life...It's a little while in comparison to Eternity!

One day you will reach the shore...  
This storm will be over...

In the meantime Matthew gives us one more detail...

***33 Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed. -Mt 14:33 (NLT)***

The disciples worshiped Jesus before they got to the shore...

As we close today that's what we're going to do...

If you're a follower of Jesus today...

We're all going to face a storm...

When that storm comes we have two choices

We can worry or we can worship...

Instead of making a plan...it's time to pray

Instead of worrying...it's time to worship

Don't give your energy to the storm...

Give it to the Lord who is Lord over the storm...

We're going to worship in a moment and prayer will be available to you...

But if you're here today and you're not a Christian...those same storms are coming...

Jesus is inviting you to come to Him...

**What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You?**  
Altar Time