

BIG ENOUGH: God Is BIGGER Than My Storms (Matthew 8:23-27)

Introduction.

Several years ago, Charissa and I were invited by our friends, Jerry and Viola Threat, to go fishing on Lake Overcup near Morrilton, Arkansas. Jerry had a “Bass Tracker” style boat which was big enough to handle all four of us and our gear.

We fished our way across the lake only to have a clouds, wind, and potential thunderstorms move-in. We decided to motor back to the landing as opposed to riding out the storm on the water.

As we motored across the lake the wind increased in intensity and the wave grew in height. Halfway back to the landing, the white-capped waves started coming over the side of the boat.

Needless to say, we were scared. Everyone checked their life vests and held on for the last eighth mile or so. Finally, we arrived at the landing just before the down pour hit.

We weren’t expecting a storm that day, nevertheless, it happened.

Isn’t that just like life. We going about our business and then boom a thunderstorm moves in unexpectedly with high winds. The storm may be work related, finance related, family related, or health related. Nevertheless, the storm is real and it can be frightening.

Contextualize this sermon in the series.

Contextualize this passage of Scripture.

BIG IDEA: While storms are inevitable, Christ presence amid the storms is unalterable.

I. Meaningful Facts About Storms (v. 23-24)

A) Storms are certain (v. 23)

In 1986 the hull of a fishing boat was recovered from the mud on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, about five miles south of Capernaum. The boat—26 1/2 feet long, 7 1/2 feet wide, and 4 1/2 feet high—corresponds in design to a first-century mosaic of a Galilean boat preserved in Migdal only a mile from the discovery site, and to a sixth-century mosaic of a similar boat from Madeba. Carbon 14 technology dates the boat between 120 B.C. and A.D. 40. Both fore and aft sections of the boat appear to have been covered with a deck, providing space on which to sit or lie. The boat was propelled by four rowers (two per side) and has a total capacity of about fifteen persons. The Galilee boat corresponds to the particulars of the boat described in this story and to depictions in various ancient artistic renderings (S. Wachsmann, "The Galilee Boat," *BAR* 14/5 (1988): 18–33.)

B) Storms can be sudden (v. 24a)

The Sea of Galilee is located in the north of the valley of the Jordan. It is about thirteen miles in length and seven and one-half miles in width. It lies approximately six hundred eighty feet below the level of the Mediterranean. Its bed is a depression surrounded by hills, especially on the east side with its precipitous cliffs. It is understandable that when the cool currents rush down from Mt. Hermon (9,200 feet) or from elsewhere and through narrow passages between the steep hills collide with the heated air above the lake basin, this downrush is impetuous. The violent winds whip the sea into a fury, causing high waves that splash over bow, side rails, etc., of any vessel that happens to be plying the water surface. In the present instance the small fishing craft, swamped by towering billows, was becoming water-logged, the toy of the raging elements. The verb is present, and denotes the act in its progress, not its completion (Gould, E. P. (1922). *A critical and exegetical commentary on the Gospel according to St. Mark (85)*. New York: C. Scribner's sons.).

C) Storms are often severe (v. 24b)

D) Storms can be staggering (v. 24c)

II. Man's Failures Concerning Storms (v. 24-26)

A) An Underestimation of God (v. 24e-25a)
(Never forget, Jesus is sovereign over storms.)

B) Over-exaggeration of the Storm (v. 25b)

C) No appropriation of Faith (v. 26a)

III. Master's Faithfulness Amidst Storms (v. 26-27)

A) His Companionship (v. 26b)

B) His Compassion (v. 26b)
Sometimes calm, sometimes continue.

C) His Control (v. 27)
(As you grow, the storms don't subside as quickly – trust!!)

Conclusion

A) Storms happen

B) Storms have purpose

C) Storms don't last forever

D) Jesus is with us through the storms

