

DATE OF MESSAGE: October 9, 2016

MESSAGE TITLE: Response to Hurricane Matthew

SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:35-41

KEY TRUTH

Jesus does not only calm storms; He uses them to reveal His power in the lives of men and women who trust in Him.

GETTING STARTED

Hurricane Matthew directly impacted the Merritt Island area early in the morning on Friday, October 7th. Share with your group how the story in Mark 4:35-41 compares to your own experiences with this hurricane. The disciples went to Jesus when the storm started filling the boat. What did you pray when it became apparent that the hurricane would pass over our area?

OBSERVATION

This story occurs at the end of chapter 4. What's the context of this story? What do we see Jesus doing in Mark 4:1-34, for example?

At what time of the day does this story take place? What did Jesus do after an exhausting day of teaching and relating to people?

Where does Jesus tell his disciples that they are going in verse 35? Who did He leave behind? Who went with Him?

What happened to the convoy of ships as they crossed the Sea of Galilee?

How did the disciples respond to the violent wind storm? Where did they find Jesus, and what was He doing when they found Him?

What question did the disciples ask Jesus? What concerns did their question reveal?

What did Jesus do when his disciples woke Him? To whom did He speak first?

APPLICATION

Jesus told the disciples that they were going to the other side of the sea. In doing so, He promised to get them through the storm that suddenly arose. What storm do you face today? Do you think your storm took Jesus by surprise? How do you think God wants you to respond to your personal storm?

It's been said that there are only three kinds of people when it comes to the storms of life: (1) those going into a storm, (2) those in the midst of a storm and (3) those who just came out of a storm. Which one are you? Will you trust Jesus in each situation?

What have you learned about God recently? What passage of Scripture did you cling to as the storm approached?

The storm of God's wrath is approaching those who have not placed their faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. How are you warning people who are far from God about the approaching storm?

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for sparing our city from the worst of Hurricane Matthew. We remember in prayer those who lost everything, even their lives. Show us how to extend the grace of God to families who suffer because of the storm that just passed. We pause to remember that you are sovereign over all things, including nature. Even the wind and the sea obey You!

SHARE POINT

Read and review the application questions. Share with someone in your life how God's Word is changing you into a growing disciple. Encourage that person to do the same. That person could be a family member, a friend, a co-worker or a neighbor.

COMMENTARY NOTES

4:37 The Sea of Galilee is 696 feet below sea level, resulting in violent downdrafts and sudden storms.

4:38 Jesus slept on a cushion in the stern section of the boat while the storm raged. Jesus' sleeping indicates lack of fear and also great fatigue, a reminder of his true humanity. There are possible echoes of Jonah here. However, Jonah is fleeing from God, while Jesus is restoring people to God. The disciple's fear of perishing is greater than their confidence in the presence of Jesus.

4:39 Jesus displays his divine power over nature. In the OT, God calmed the waves (Job 12:15) and the storm (Job 28:25 and Ps. 107:25-30).

4:40 Jesus chides the disciples for being afraid. The antidote to fear is faith. They are right in turning to Jesus, but they are exhorted regarding their fear and feeling of being forsaken by God.

4:41 The disciples ask the right question, for the calming of the storm gives evidence that this man is also truly God.

SOURCES CONSULTED

ESV Study Bible

Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study

