

Sometimes it Takes a Storm

When we think about the gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John – Mark isn't usually the first place we go. Yet Mark, listening to the eyewitness accounts of Peter, wrote a fast-paced gospel sharing the miraculous things Jesus did, including His death and Resurrection, to convince his Roman readers that Jesus is the Son of God. Let's not overlook what we can learn about our Savior in the overlooked gospel.



INTRODUCTION

We often want to be comfortable more than we want to become more like Christ. But as Pastor Nathan explained in today's sermon about Mark 6 when Jesus walked on water, sometimes to see Jesus better we need a storm!

STARTER QUESTION

No matter how many times the disciples doubted Jesus's power, He still extended grace to them. Some of us, on the other hand, have a limit to how much we are willing to take from other people. Our patience wears thin. Are you a person who is quick to extend grace to others? In your family or small group, or in your journal if you're studying alone, discuss/write how can you use Jesus as your example to get better at this.

INTO THE WORD

Read the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand, which occurs in Mark 6 just before the story of Jesus walking on water (verses 30-44). When you read Mark 6:47-50, you wonder how the disciples could witness the many miracles Jesus performed and still doubt and be afraid in the middle of a storm. Yet, we often act the same way. What things are weighing your heart down with worry? On a piece of paper, jot down challenges you've faced in the past and note how Jesus came through for you each time. He will do it again!

Read Mark 6:50 and Isaiah 41:13. Recall a time you experienced Jesus' presence during one of life's storms. Are you currently in a storm? If so, how can Jesus' words in Mark 6:50 change your perspective? Has He brought you through something in the past? Then trust Him again.

Pastor Nathan said we learn 2 things when Jesus walked on the water: He is the Lord and His intentions. With regard to His intentions, read Romans 5:3-5 and 1 Peter 1:6-7. What does Jesus seek to produce in you, that you can't produce yourself, in and out of the storms? How does He use, what Pastor Nathan referred to as "uncomfortable grace," for your good? Have you ever prayed during a storm that it would make you more Christ-like? Why or why not?

APPLICATION

God is the perfect father. For the parents that are reading this study guide, can you relate to the ways that God has grown or sanctified you as you have walked with him? Is there any parallel to the ways that you parent your children? Do you always give them everything that they want, or do they grow in wisdom and character by enduring challenging seasons?

As you look back over your life, has the Lord ever left you or forsaken you? Has he ever not provided a way for you forward? Have you ever endured a trial or a storm in your life only to look back after the storm has passed to see that it was God's grace all along? Would you be willing to share that story this week with someone you trust?

Have you ever been in a situation where you questioned why God didn't calm the storm when He had the power to do so? How did God carry you through it? Sometimes, we need a storm to better see Jesus. How were you able to see Jesus more clearly through your difficult circumstance?

PRAYER

We are all facing the storm of the COVID-19 crisis these days. But remember that when it is Jesus versus a storm, the storm doesn't stand a chance! This week as you pray, remember all the times God has brought you through past storms, and pray that you see him better through whatever storm you face now and in the future. Jesus wants to take you where you don't want to go in order to produce something that you can't produce on your own.