

Riding Out the Storm

Text: Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)

²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Introduction

A group of golfers were approaching the fourth hole on the golf course one afternoon. Suddenly the sky turned ominous, and it began to rain amid claps of thunder. They rushed to shelter in a gazebo near a metal fence. As the storm grew in intensity, a bolt of lightning hit the long fence and lit it up like a neon sign. It was a while before any of them could speak. Then one player turned to his opponents and said, "You know that five I had on the first hole-it really was a seven."

Storms have a way of making us focus on what really matters in life. We tend to set everything straight and put our lives back on the right path. This morning I want us to look at another story of a storm and discover how we can ride out the storms of life.

I. Jesus' power and authority over all of life.

II. Jesus leads us into life's storms

III. Jesus walks with us through life's storms

Conclusion

F. B. Meyer explained it this way: "A bar of iron worth \$2.50, when wrought into horseshoes is worth \$5. If made into needles it is worth \$175. If into penknife blades it is worth \$1,625. If made into springs for watches it is worth \$125,000. What a 'trial by fire' that bar must undergo to be worth this! But the more it is manipulated, and the more it is hammered and passed through the heat, beaten, pounded, and polished, the greater its value."