

# "Even the Wind Obeys Him"

## Matthew 8:23-27

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### Overview



There is no shortage of storms in the typical life. The gale force winds blow regularly as we strive to deal with illness, family dynamics, job insecurity, personal loss, financial shortfalls, and so on.

Often our lives are dedicated to mitigating these threats. We seek to protect ourselves and run after whatever might offer some greater measure of safety and security.

Thankfully, for the believer, there is a safe harbor available to us that can help us navigate the storms. It comes in the person of the One who can command the wind and the waves. That safe harbor is Jesus.

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### Getting Started

*Batten Down the Hatches!!*



1. What is the worst weather storm you have ever experienced? Where did you find protection from that storm?
  2. Do you have a favorite kind of storm (thunderstorm, blizzard, hurricane, windstorm, other?)? Why is it your favorite?
  3. How would you rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being "storm averse" (avoiding discomfort at all cost) and 10 being "storm chaser" (when challenges arise you say – "bring it on")?
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### The Text



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

<sup>26</sup> 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.

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

Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)

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**The Video (optional)** “*Even the Wind Obeys Him*” – Matthew 8:23-27 – by Kyle Corbin, Oct. 3/21  
(view at [www.immanuelonline.ca](http://www.immanuelonline.ca)).



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**Understanding**



1. What is Jesus attempting to do at this point (vs. 23)? Where does He want to go with His followers and why (review verses 18-22)?
2. What threat arises at this point (verse 24)? How dangerous is this threat? How does Jesus respond to it?
3. Contrast the reaction of Jesus with that of His disciples (vs. 25)? How is their reaction different? Where do they go for help (and what does this tell you about their beliefs)?
4. How does Jesus respond to the disciples' request for help (vs. 26)? What problem, according to Jesus, is at the root of their reaction to the storm?
5. The disciples do seem to express faith by looking to Jesus for help but Jesus still rebukes them for their lack of faith. How do you reconcile these two realities? Why does Jesus still rebuke them? NB: for a bit more on the disciples' attitude, check out Mark 4:38.
6. How does Jesus deal with the storm (vs. 26)? What does this interaction suggest about Jesus (in regards to both His divinity and His humanity)?
7. How do the men view Jesus after this incident (vs. 27)? How much do you think they understood about Jesus' identity at this point?

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## Applying



1. How do you tend to react to incoming storms? Recall the last time you went through a storm in your life. Did you trust Jesus in the midst of that? Why not? OR What helped you do that? Has your response to incoming storms changed over the years? If so, in what way and why?
2. What preparations have you made for the inevitable storms that will come? What steps can we take to get ready for the challenges of life? Where can you look outside of your own situation to see Jesus taking His people through the storm?
3. Do you think Jesus was a bit harsh in His response to the disciples' request for help? What do you think Jesus expects of you in the midst of the storm?
4. What, if anything, might Matthew be using this account to teach us about the nature and the challenges of discipleship?
5. The disciples seem quite amazed / surprised at the way Jesus deals with the impending threat. What has surprised you about who Jesus is and/or the way He has worked in your life?
6. "God will never give you more than you can handle." Agree or disagree? Explain your answer.
7. Jesus clearly has the power to still the storm, but He does not still every storm. Why not? (Consider Romans 8:28-32, Eph. 1:11, James 1:2-4, John 16:33).
8. Is there a "storm" in your life for which you need Jesus' help? Is there a problem which you need to entrust to Jesus and His power? How will you express your faith in Jesus as the One who will help you with your "storm"? (Suggestion: For a reminder of God's rescuing power, read Psalm 107).

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## Memory Verse(s)



<sup>26</sup> 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.

Matthew 8:26 (NIV)

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## Extra Resources



- ❖ *“Even the Wind Obeys Him” – Matthew 8:23-27* – by Kyle Corbin, Oct. 3/21 (sermon, view at [www.immanuelonline.ca](http://www.immanuelonline.ca)). Pastor Kyle points us to the great power of Jesus that we can look to in the midst of the storm.
- ❖ *“Serving a Two-Handed God”* - by Mark Galli (article at [www.christianitytoday.com](http://www.christianitytoday.com), April 15, 2009). Galli explores how God has both the raw power to calm storms and the loving power of a Good Friday.
- ❖ *“For Those With Little Faith”* – by Scott Hubbard (article at [www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org), June 17, 2021). This article has some practical help for those struggling with a weak faith.