



Sermon Notes: "Big Problem, Bigger God"

Matthew 8:23-27

10.5.25

REAL STORMS WITH A REAL GOD:

Big problems don't discriminate.

- Faith doesn't make you stormproof, it makes you storm-ready.

Little faith is still real faith.

- Jesus helping them connect their theology (God controls storms) to their reality (Jesus is God) in their crisis moment.

Big God reveals His authority.

- The disciples realized they were witnessing God himself in human form.
- Sometimes Jesus calms the storm around us. Sometimes He calms the storm within us. Both reveal his power and presence.

So What?

1. Remember Who is in Your Boat.
2. Bring Your Little Faith to the Big God.
3. Let the Experience Grow Your Faith.

ICEBREAKER: *Share about a time when you faced an unexpected crisis that caught you completely off guard. How did you respond in the moment? Looking back, what did that experience teach you?*

For Study, Reflection, Discussion:

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

READ: Matthew 8:23-27

2. (Verses 23-24) These were experienced fishermen who knew the Sea of Galilee well, yet they panicked. What does this tell us about the severity of the storm? How does this challenge the idea that faith should make us immune to real problems? (See also John 16:33, Acts 14:22)
3. (Verse 24) Jesus was sleeping through a life-threatening storm. What do you think this reveals about his character, his humanity, his divinity, or his trust in the Father? How do we understand Jesus' peace when our world feels chaotic? (See also Mark 4:38, Philippians 4:6-7)
4. (verse 26) When Jesus said, "You have so little faith," do you hear condemnation or correction? The sermon mentioned they had "selective faith" - believing Jesus could heal but not control nature. Where do you tend to have "selective faith" in your own life?
5. (Verse 27 and application) "Sometimes Jesus calms the storm around us. Sometimes He calms the storm within us." Can you share an example of each from your life or someone you know? How do both reveal God's power and presence? (See also Isaiah 26:3, 2 Corinthians 12:9)

Deploy:

This week's deployment: Pray for someone you never thought would be interested in faith and look for opportunities to show them kindness. If you are able, intentionally connect with someone newer to faith or from a different background. Let your story encourage someone who might feel disqualified.

Don't Forget:

- Launching: Life Groups and Sunday Schools!!
- All Church F.U.N. Night Pumpkin Carving and Chili Contests! Oct 12th
- Main Service start time change: 9:30 a.m. Starting November 2nd.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you that your kingdom is bigger than we imagined!
For those who feel like outsiders - remind them there's a place for them at your table. For longtime believers - keep us humble and amazed by your grace. Help us see the people you're working in that we might overlook. Make us bridge-builders who welcome everyone.
Thank you that faith matters more than background. Give us faith that amazes you. In Jesus' name, Amen.