



DENIA

COMMUNITY CHURCH



# “The Perfect Storm”

Matthew 14:22-36

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# Outline/Overview of Matthew



## The Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Matthew

- I. Jesus' Genealogy, Birth, and Infancy (1:1–2:23)
- II. Jesus' Baptism and Temptation (3:1–4:11)
- III. Jesus' Galilean Ministry (4:12–16:20)
  - a. 3rd Stage of Galilean Ministry: Withdrawal (13:53–16:20)
- IV. Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem (16:21–20:34)
- V. Jesus' Jerusalem Ministry (21:1–28:20)

# Sermon Preview



- I. A Storm Arises (vs. 22-26)
- II. Christ Is Comfort (vs. 27)
- III. Peter's Faith...and Fall (vs. 28-31)
- IV. Worship! (vs. 32-33)
- V. Amazing Faith (vs. 34-36)
- VI. Life Applications

## A Storm Arises (vs. 22-26)

“Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away.” (vs. 22)

“After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.” (vs. 23-24i)

“But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves,; for the wind was contrary.” (vs. 24ii)



## A Storm Arises (vs. 22-26)



“And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea.” (vs. 25)

“When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear.” (vs. 26)

# A Storm Arises (vs. 22-26)



1. The Disciples are:
  - a. Separated from Jesus (vs. 22)
  - b. A Long Distance from Shore (vs. 24i)
  - c. Battling a Violent Storm (and have been for 6-10 hours) (vs. 24ii)
  - d. In the Middle of the Night (vs. 25)
  - e. “Terrified” (vs. 26)

# Christ Is Comfort (vs. 27)



“But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.’” (vs. 27)

1. Why should Jesus’ words change everything?

a. Jesus is present.

i. It is I. I am here with you.

b. Jesus loves them

i. “Take courage” = literally means, “Be of good cheer.”

ii. “do not be afraid.” - This note of reassurance runs throughout Matthew’s Gospel (1:20; 10:26, 28, 31; 17:7; 28:5, 10).

c. Jesus is God.

i. Reads More Literally, “I am”. Clear Reference to the Divine Name God Gives Himself in Exodus 3:14, “I AM who I AM.



## Peter's Faith...and Fall (vs. 28-29)



“Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.’ And He said, ‘Come!’ And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus.” (vs. 28-29)

## Peter's Faith...and Fall (vs. 30)



“But seeing the wind, he became frightened” (vs. 30i)

1. Peter takes his eyes off of Jesus, and with his focus now on his troubles, his fears return.

“and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’” (vs. 30ii)

1. Peter makes yet another request of Jesus, but this is one from desperation rather than faith.

## Peter's Faith...and Fall (vs. 31)



“Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt?’”  
(vs. 31)

1. The root issue with Peter at this moment isn't the storm. It's his lack of faith.

## Worship (vs. 32-33)



“When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshipped Him, saying, ‘You are certainly God’s Son!’” (vs. 32-33)

1. Jesus not only has the power to (a) walk on water, (b) empower others to walk on water, and (c) save Peter from sinking...but He demonstrates that He has power over the very storm itself.
2. The climax of the story is not the stilling of the storm, but the confession and worship of the disciples: “Truly you are the Son of God.”

## Amazing Faith (vs. 34-36)



“When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent word into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick; and they implored Him that they might just touch the fringe of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured.” (vs. 34-36)

### 1. Galilean Steps of Faith:

- a. They recognized Jesus, and having heard of His miracles, took the step of faith to send word to the surrounding area.
- b. The sick and their families, upon hearing about Jesus, took the step of faith to come to Jesus.
- c. Upon seeing Jesus, they took the step of faith to touch His cloak, believing even that could heal them.

# Life Application #1



1. We need storms.
2. If I am never scared or weak...if by all appearances, I have things under control...why would I ever depend on God?
3. And if I never truly depend on God...how will I KNOW He is faithful?
4. And if I never deeply experience His faithfulness, when will I worship?
5. It is God's presence, love and sovereignty IN the storm that builds my faith.
6. I need storms. I don't always like them, but I need them.
7. And you do too.

## Life Application #2



1. Peter takes his eyes off of Jesus, the source of power and peace, and focuses on the storm, the source of terror and fear.
2. Do we ever do this?
3. Peter = me. Peter = you.
4. What does this battle of faith and doubt look like practically?
5. Here are 3 examples:
  - a. Anxiety
  - b. Disappointment
  - c. Marriage

# Life Application #2 – Practical Example - Anxiety



## 1. Focusing on the Storm:

- a) Nobody would understand my fear; therefore, I must fight this battle alone.
- b) If what I **NEED** to happen doesn't happen, the results will be catastrophic.
- c) I can only be truly happy and content if this does/doesn't happen.

## 2. Focusing on God in the Storm:

- a) God knows my fears and loves me.
- b) God is present with me regardless of what does/doesn't happen.
- c) God is sovereign over these circumstances. God's will be done.



# Life Application #2 – Practical Example - Disappointment



## 1. Focusing on the Storm:

- a) I thought life would be so much different.
- b) I don't see how God's purposes could be served in this.
- c) Does God truly care about my sadness?

## 2. Focusing on God in the Storm:

- a) God knows my disappointment and loves me.
- b) God is present with me regardless of what does/doesn't happen.
- c) God is sovereign over these circumstances. God's will be done.

# Life Application #2 – Practical Example - Marriage



## 1. Focusing on the Storm:

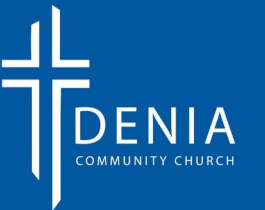
- a) He/She will never change; I will never be able to change.
- b) I can't ever see myself being happy with this person.
- c) I feel so alone.

## 2. Focusing on God in the Storm:

- a) God knows everything about my marriage and loves me.
- b) God is present with me regardless of what does/doesn't happen.
- c) God is sovereign over these circumstances. God redeems marriages every day. God's will be done.

# Conclusion







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