

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Stormy Faith

Matthew 8:23-27

(**Matthew 8:1-11:1**, Revealing the power of Jesus as king)

- Vs. 1-17, Three miraculous healings
- Vs. 18-22, Two requirements of following Him

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What's the worst storm you've ever been in?

- A storm here in 1979 sank the Hood Canal Bridge
- **110 MPH winds!!**

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Maybe you're in a fierce storm right now...

- Family, health, financial, work, faith... any area of your life

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What about the storms raging in the world around us?

- Social, political, moral, economic, international...
- How are you weathering those storms?

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Matthew 7:24-27 & Hebrews 12:26-29

- Jesus promised the storms of life will hit everyone
- God sends some to shake loose things of no eternal value
- How will we respond to the storms in our life?
- Some take us completely by surprise
- Some seem to go on a very long time

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Three identifying questions during the storm:

- Are we **in the storm**?
- Are we **in the threatened boat**?

- Are we **in the boat with Jesus**?

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What makes you feel like your boat is filling and at risk?

- Are you **problem** oriented?
- Are you **solution** oriented?
- Are you **Christ** oriented?

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8:23, Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

- **Our calling is to follow Him, wherever He goes, no questions asked**
- We need to decide that before He goes wherever He goes

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8:24, And **suddenly** a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

- Life's circumstances often rise up around us without warning
- Will the circumstances define us; good, bad or otherwise?

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A great tempest arose on the sea (Where they were with Christ)

- How did they get there?
- Did they follow Christ there?
- Or did they take themselves there, like Lot? (**Gen. 13:10-11**)

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Was He still there with them?

- Were they still with Him?
- Did they believe they were still with Him?

- Or had they left Him – to be with the storm instead?

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So that the boat was covered with the waves.

- Do earthly threats & circumstances define our lives?
- Or does Christ?

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They were not alone.

- They were with each other
- How did they influence each other?
- Did they offer faith, or fear?
- **(Daniel 3:16-18 & Hebrews 3:13)**

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But He was asleep.

- The threatening storm had no influence on Him...
- Who was with them in the boat He invited them into

(Mark 4:35 & Luke 8:22) He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.”

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8:25, Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

- After they had ignored & excluded Him from their lives...
- And handed themselves over to the storm around them

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And awoke Him

- Rather than join Him in His rest... **(Heb. 3:7-4:16)**
- They supposed to intrude on His rest,
- And draw Him into their fear

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“Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

- DO SOMETHING!!
- They behaved as if He was unaware & unconcerned about them, or passive

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Do we plead with Him to remove the circumstances of our fear?

- Or entrust ourselves to Him in faith?
- **Knowing we followed Him to where we are...**

- Confident that staying with Him is sufficient.

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Can we fear for our lives when we are with Him?

- We know about the resurrection
- Can we, in effect leave Him out when He is still with us?

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8:26, But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

- What have you done with yourselves?
- **Genesis 3:9, “Where are you?”**

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You have obviously separated yourselves from Me

- Even though I remain here with you...
- Demonstrating the security & confidence I invite you into with Me
- **John 1:18, 14:27 & 16:33**

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 You & I have His Word and His Spirit with us always

- **They had Him!**
- We are blessed & empowered by the example He left us with them

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“O you of little faith?”

- **Mark 4:40, “How is it you have no faith?”**
- There is a reason. What is it?

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Luke 8:25, “Where is your faith?”

- Where did you put it?
- You did not put it in Me.

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Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea...

- **Mark 4:39, “Peace, be still!”**

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And there was a great calm.

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Psalm 50:3, Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent; And it shall be very tempestuous all around Him.

- If we are with Him, around us too.

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Psalm 65:7, You who still the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the peoples.

Psalm 93:4, The LORD on high is mightier than **the noise** of many waters, than the mighty waves of the sea. (It's just noise)

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Where He is, the storm is of no consequence

- He doesn't need to calm the storm. He is not troubled.
 - We won't need Him to calm the storm if we stay with Him...
 - Close to Him, in the eye of the storm
 - The tempest swirling around Him does not intrude on Him.
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8:27, So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

- They did not yet know who He is. **We do.**
 - If the winds & sea obey Him, we should trust Him...
 - No matter what is happening around us
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I admit I haven't faced this for more than two weeks.

- My car began to fail on our road trip
- I defaulted to being solution oriented (inadequate)
- Revell encouraged me & we entrusted the car to Him
- 15 miles later the problems disappeared