

8/2/26

Sermon Title: The Lord Greater Than the Storm

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Matthew 14:22-36

Jesus Walks on the Water

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone,

²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

³⁴ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret.

³⁵ And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him

³⁶ and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

When the crowds saw Jesus feed twenty thousand people with only five loaves of bread and two fish, excitement swept through the crowd.

They began to shout, "Surely, this is the Messiah sent by God!" and tried to make Jesus their king.

In response, Jesus immediately urged His disciples to get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

He Himself remained behind and dismissed the crowds

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

There were several reasons why Jesus hurriedly sent His disciples away from the crowd.

However, one of the main reasons was to calm the excitement and prevent the crowd from carrying out its intention to make Him king.

By sending the disciples away first, Jesus removed them from an atmosphere that could have encouraged the crowd's misguided expectations.

At that time, the disciples had not yet fully understood the will and mission of Jesus.

Each of them followed Him with his own expectations and purposes.

They still held political ambitions, hoping that if Jesus became an earthly king, they too would be given positions of power and honor in His kingdom.

Therefore, when the crowd tried to make Jesus king, the disciples might have been more likely to encourage the crowd rather than correct their mistaken expectations.

This could have made the situation even more difficult.

After sending the disciples away, Jesus remained behind by Himself and went up on a mountainside to pray.

As He prayed there, He may have been able to watch over the disciples as they crossed the Sea of Galilee in their boat.

²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone,

Whenever Jesus faced an important or critical situation, He withdrew to a solitary place to pray.

The secret of Jesus' power was His continual fellowship with God the Father through prayer.

Prayer was the very essence of His inner life and the source that sustained and empowered His ministry.

Meanwhile, the disciples, who had left the shore ahead of Jesus, found themselves in danger because of a violent storm.

Due to its unique geographical features, the Sea of Galilee could be calm and peaceful one moment, yet suddenly be swept by powerful winds and raging waves.

²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

By this time, the boat had already traveled far from the shore, and the disciples could no longer turn back.

Having left behind the enthusiastic crowds and been hurriedly sent away in the boat, the disciples suddenly found themselves in a life-threatening crisis because of the violent storm.

Then, during the fourth watch of the night, something completely unexpected happened.

Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea.

²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

The fourth watch of the night was between 3:00 and 6:00 in the morning.

The Jewish people regarded sunset, around 6:00 p.m., as the beginning of a new day.

They divided both the daytime and the nighttime into twelve-hour periods and further divided the night into four watches.

The daytime was counted from approximately 6:00 a.m., beginning with the first hour of the day.

The third hour was around 9:00 a.m., the sixth hour was around noon, the ninth hour was around 3:00 p.m., and the twelfth hour was around 6:00 p.m., at sunset.

The nighttime was divided into four watches: the first watch, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.; the second watch, from 9:00 p.m. to midnight; the third watch, from midnight to 3:00 a.m.; and the fourth watch, from 3:00 to 6:00 a.m.

The fourth watch was the darkest and coldest part of the night.

The disciples were exhausted and hungry, anxiously struggling against the storm, not knowing when their boat might be overturned by the powerful waves.

Then, at that very moment, Jesus appeared.

And He came walking on the dark, cold, and stormy sea.

The disciples were terrified.

Who could possibly have imagined that Jesus would come to them at such an hour, walking across the storm-tossed sea—not even in a boat, but on the water itself?

Therefore, instead of recognizing Jesus, the disciples thought that they were seeing a ghost, and they cried out in fear.

²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

Since it is impossible for a human being to walk on the surface of the sea, the disciples’ reaction is completely understandable.

Jesus reassured the disciples, who were overwhelmed with fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

In Jesus’ words, “It is I,” there is an assurance that He is the very One who had healed the sick, cast out demons, and performed countless miracles, including the miracle of feeding the five thousand with five loaves of bread and two fish. Through these words, Jesus was confirming His identity to the disciples.

Peter then asked Jesus to allow him to walk on the water as well.

²⁸ “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

Peter’s words, “If it is You, Lord,” were not intended to test whether the One walking on the water was really Jesus.

Peter was already convinced that it was the Lord.

He believed that if Jesus commanded him, he too would be able to walk on the water by the power of the Lord.

Peter did not simply say, “Lord, let me walk on the water.”

Instead, he said, “Tell me to come to You on the water.”

By saying this, Peter placed the emphasis on Jesus’ command.

He believed that through a single word from Jesus, he would be able to do what would otherwise be impossible.

Peter had a firm and confident faith in the Lord.

How, then, did Peter come to have such faith?

He had witnessed Jesus open the eyes of the blind, enable the mute to speak, and heal the woman who had suffered from bleeding.

Moreover, only the day before, Peter had witnessed the astonishing miracle in which Jesus fed approximately twenty thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish.

Through these miracles, Peter’s faith in Jesus had grown.

Peter had spent his entire life as a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee.

Therefore, more than anyone else, he understood how reckless and dangerous it was to step out of the boat and walk into the middle of the sea.

The waves were raging, and at any moment he could have been swept far away from the boat and drowned.

Nevertheless, because Peter believed in Jesus, he made the decision to take this dangerous and seemingly impossible step of faith.

In response to Peter's remarkable request of faith, the Lord gave him a simple command: "Come."

At that moment, the word of Jesus became *rhema*—a living and personal word spoken directly to Peter.

²⁹ "Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. Jesus' command, "Come," was an authoritative invitation that carried with it His promise of protection and safety for the one who trusted Him and came to Him.

In obedience to Jesus' word, Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water.

But after a short while, Peter suddenly noticed the raging wind and the violent waves surrounding him.

At that moment, fear overwhelmed him, and he began to sink.

Peter believed in the supernatural power of Jesus, but his faith was not yet strong enough to remain calm and steadfast in the midst of the storm.

The moment Peter lost his complete trust in Jesus and in His power, he became overwhelmed by the circumstances around him.

Instead of fixing his eyes on the Lord, he focused on the danger of the storm, and he began to sink beneath the waves.

In that desperate moment, Peter turned again to the Lord. He cried out and pleaded with Jesus to save him.

Immediately, Jesus reached out His hand, took hold of Peter, and lifted him up from the water.

Then Jesus rebuked him, saying, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

Unlike His first command, “Come,” Jesus did not merely speak another word to Peter.

Instead, He personally reached out His hand and took hold of him.

Why did Jesus do this?

Was He unable to save Peter by His word alone?

Certainly not.

The Lord is the One who created the world by His word.

With a single word, He is able to accomplish all things.

Yet Jesus personally reached out His hand and took hold of Peter so that Peter might experience the loving hand of the Lord that holds and sustains him.

We, too, are people of little faith, just like Peter.

When we worship and listen to the Word of God, our faith is strengthened, and we resolve to live according to His Word.

But when we encounter suffering or difficulties in our daily lives, we often take our eyes off God and focus instead on our circumstances.

We quickly become discouraged and begin to sink beneath the waves of this world.

Then, frightened and struggling, we cry out to Jesus once again.

Yet Jesus does not reject us.

He immediately reaches out His hand and takes hold of us.
Then He gently asks us, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”

When Jesus got into the boat, the raging wind and the violent waves immediately became calm.

Truly, Jesus is the Lord over all creation.

He rules over all things, and He is also the King of order and peace who calms every storm, confusion, and fear.

Wherever Jesus is present, and in every heart where He reigns, there is the promise of eternal *shalom*—the peace, wholeness, and well-being that come from God.

When those in the boat witnessed these things, they worshiped Jesus and confessed, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Who were the people in the boat?

They were the disciples of Jesus.

Although they had accompanied Jesus and witnessed many miracles, they had not yet fully understood that Jesus was the Son of God, the Messiah.

Therefore, even when they encountered Jesus in the midst of the storm, they failed to recognize Him at first.

However, when they witnessed Jesus’ supernatural power—walking on the water—they came to a deeper understanding of His divine nature.

They became convinced that Jesus truly was the Son of God, the promised Messiah, and they confessed their faith in Him.

Jesus then crossed over to Gennesaret with His disciples and continued His ministry there.

Gennesaret was a fertile plain located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Capernaum was located to the north, and Tiberias was to the south.

When the people of Gennesaret saw Jesus, they immediately recognized Him. They spread the news throughout the surrounding area, and people brought all their sick to Jesus.

All who came to Him were healed.

³⁴ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret.

³⁵ And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him

³⁶ and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed.

When they reached out in faith and touched the edge of Jesus' garment, they were all healed.

Beloved members of Church of Godly Dreams,

The storm that the disciples encountered on the Sea of Galilee that night closely resembles the realities of life we face today.

Just as a fierce storm suddenly swept across the once-calm sea, unexpected trials can come into our lives and shake our entire world to its very foundations.

When that happens, we initially rely on God in faith.

But when the trials continue and our problems do not seem to be resolved, doubts begin to arise in our hearts.

We look at the circumstances before us rather than at the Lord, and we focus on the fears of this world rather than on the promises of God.

As a result, we become easily discouraged and shaken.

This is because our faith is weak.

We ought to keep our eyes fixed on God, who rules over all things in this world, and continue to trust Him and persevere to the end.

Yet we keep turning our eyes toward the problems and difficulties before us instead of looking to God.

Is anyone here suffering because of a storm that has swept into your life?

Is it financial hardship, a health problem, conflict within your family, or fear and uncertainty about the future?

Whatever storm you may be facing, listen to the voice of the Lord saying,

“Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

Rely on His Word and take steps of faith.

Even if your faith begins to waver and you start to sink beneath the waves, do not lose heart.

Call out to the Lord once again!

Even then, the Lord will never turn away from you.

He will immediately reach out His hand, take hold of you, and lift you back up to the place of faith.

Having experienced the miracle of His salvation, you will finally fall before Jesus, just as the disciples did in the boat, and confess:

“Truly you are the Son of God.”

As we look to the Lord, who is greater than every storm, may each of us hold firmly to His hand in faith and continue to walk the path of faith to the very end, no matter what difficulties we may face.

May this be true of all of us, in the name of Jesus Christ.