

## “EXPERIENCING PEACE IN THE MIDST OF LIFE’S STORMS”

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**TEXT:** Luke 8:22-25 (see also Mark 4:35-41)

**INTRO:** In this past season we’ve all been in the midst of the Coronavirus storm and a racial storm. How have these storms affected you? How have you responded to these storms? You can [and should] choose your response! God wants you to be experiencing peace in the midst of these storms, and other life storms that will come. But how do we do that?

### **I. LAUNCH OUT IN LIFE WITH JESUS IN YOUR BOAT (Lk. 8:22).**

A. Do you really want to do life without Jesus in your boat (Mark 4:36)?

1. There comes a time you have to leave the multitude and face life apart from the crowd.
2. The only way you can do life with Jesus in your boat is to take Him as He is, not as you want Him to be!
  - a. He’s full of grace and truth, not one or the other.
  - b. He is love and justice, not one or the other.

B. Why do people launch out in life without Jesus in their boat, and then blame God for what happens?

### **II. BELIEVE AND TRUST WHAT JESUS SAYS, REGARDLESS OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND WHAT OTHERS SAY (Lk. 8:22).**

A. According to Jesus, they were going to the other side!

B. Jesus wants to get you to the other side of your current set of circumstances.

C. Will you believe and trust Jesus to do so?

### **III. LIFE’S STORMS WILL COME, EVEN WITH JESUS IN YOUR BOAT (Luke 8:23).**

A. You will face various trials (James 1:2).

1. Trials test your faith – reveals current faith level and gives an opportunity for your faith to grow (v. 3).
2. For trials to produce more faith and character, don’t take compromising shortcuts (v. 4).
3. Ask and believe God for wisdom to understand and know how to respond to your trials (v. 5).
4. Asking and receiving requires faith – trusting God rather than doubting (vv. 6-8).

B. What have your current trials revealed to you about your faith?

### **IV. RESPONDING TO LIFE’S STORMS (Luke 8:24-25).**

A. Come to Jesus with your fears (v. 24a).

B. Jesus can calm your storm (v. 24b; Mark 4:39).

C. Where is your faith (v. 25a)?

1. They were afraid (Luke 8:25).
2. Fear is not from God (2Tim. 1:7)!
3. To stay in fear is sin (Rom. 14:23).
4. Fear is an evidence of insufficient love (1Jn. 4:18).

D. How do you suppose Jesus wanted them to respond to this storm?

1. With faith, not fear (Luke 12:32).
  - a. Initial fear may not be a choice, but how you respond to that initial fear is a choice!
  - b. You can choose faith regardless of your fears or emotions.
  - c. Faith isn’t the complete absence of fear, but choosing to trust and obey God in spite of fear.
2. I believe Jesus wanted them to exercise authority over the storm (Luke 10:19).

### **V. HOW TO EXPERIENCE PEACE IN THE MIDST OF LIFE’S STORMS (Phil. 4:6-9).**

A. Understand God’s priority of peace inside over peace outside.

1. God is more interested in calming the storm inside you than the storm outside you!
2. God wants you to be at peace on the inside while storms are raging on the outside (John 14:27).
3. Once you get to the place where you’re calm on the inside while a storm is raging on the outside, you’ll have the faith and authority over the storm on the outside!

B. STEPS TO PEACE WITH GOD (Phil. 4:6-9):

1. Don’t worry about anything (v. 6a)
2. Instead of worrying, pray it through (v. 6b).
3. Pray until the peace of God comes (v. 7).
4. Discipline your thinking (Rom. 12:2; Phil. 4:8).
5. Walk out these principles and the God of peace will be with you (Phil. 4:9).
  - a. Even better than having the peace of God (v. 7), is having the God of peace (v. 9)!

**CONCLUSION (see also Psalm 27; 46:1-3; 56:1-4; 118:1, 5-6):** How is your faith holding up in the midst of life’s current storms? You can choose faith over fear! Come to Jesus with your fears. Ask for His peace. Focus more on peace on the inside than peace on the outside, and peace on the outside will come (Heb. 3:5-6).