

Jesus Calms the Storm (Luke 8:22-25 NIV UK)

Exploring how Jesus wants to bring us peace during life's literal and metaphorical storms but also challenges us to do the same for others. ²² One day, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go over to the other side of the lake.' So they got into a boat and set out. ²³ As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. ²⁴ The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Master, Master, we're going to drown!' He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵ 'Where is your faith?' he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement, they asked one another, 'Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.'

1. Introduction

- Thank you so much for your invitation to come and share on this Sea Sunday service.
- We set aside Sea Sunday each year as a special day to remember and pray for seafarers who serve us by working on the seas.
- Currently, 1.9 million seafarers from every nation work tirelessly, often at significant personal cost, to bring us 90% of everything we use and consume.

2. Context of the Scripture

- In Luke 8:22-25 we see Jesus, early in His ministry, suggesting that He and His disciples cross the Sea of Galilee. They set off, many of them seasoned fishermen, yet a fierce storm arises and swamps their boat. Though the danger is real, Jesus is asleep until His followers cry out for help.
- When He awakes, He rebukes the wind and the waves – and calm is instant. Through this miracle, He demonstrates He is present throughout our storms. His quiet confidence reflects His knowledge of who He is. His question, "Where is your faith?" suggests that the disciples (and we) need to trust He is in control, even when disaster appears imminent.

3. The Storms Faced By Seafarers

- For seafarers, grappling with violent storms is part of the job. Rough seas, unpredictable weather, and the threat of piracy or accidents create a dangerous environment. Yet, it is not just literal storms that seafarers battle with.
- Joseph's Story (Part 1)
Let me share with you Joseph's story. Joseph was a Filipino seafarer who served on a Japanese bulk carrier. He reached out to the Mission to Seafarers while docked in Newcastle, Australia, desperate for help with crushing anxiety and depression. He feared he might harm himself or others, feeling trapped in his shipboard world.
- Seafarers can face a range of emotional and physical storms:
 - o Isolation: Months away from family, with limited contact.
 - o Mental Health Struggles: Long working hours, stressful conditions, and few resources.
 - o Financial Pressures: Supporting extended families at home.
 - o Physical Risks: Heavy workloads and the potential for injuries.



- Joseph’s cry for help mirrors the disciples’ plea in the storm: “Master, we’re going to drown!” He was overwhelmed by fears he could not quell on his own.

4. The Storms In Our Own Lives

- We all face storms, whether sickness, money troubles, or broken relationships. These can leave us feeling just as anxious as the disciples. In our times of stress, we might wonder if Jesus is distant or asleep. Yet, as in Luke’s account, He is right there in the boat with us, waiting for us to call on Him.
- When Jesus asks, “Where is your faith?” it challenges us to consider who or what we truly trust when the waves rise. He doesn’t pretend the storm is mild but shows us that He alone can calm it – physically or within our hearts. The promise is not an absence of trouble but His presence in it.

5. The Mission to Seafarers’ Role

- Joseph’s Story (Part 2)
Over a month, the Mission to Seafarers offered constant online support to Joseph, offering reassurance and a listening ear. They intervened on his behalf with his shipping company, which initially resisted bringing him home, as this would mean additional costs. With persistent advocacy, the Mission arranged medical help and convinced the company to let Joseph disembark in Japan. On return to Manila, Joseph found ongoing care through the Mission’s Family Network.
- This is one of many instances where the Mission steps in to calm storms.
In 190 ports across 50 countries, they:
 - o Visit ships, providing friendship and practical help.
 - o Operate seafarer centres with free Wi-Fi and SIM cards, which are vital for staying connected to loved ones.
 - o Offer spiritual and emotional support, helping seafarers navigate stress and loneliness.
 - o Advocate for seafarers facing unfair treatment or unsafe conditions, standing up for their rights.
- Such work reflects Jesus’ example of meeting people where they are and bringing peace amid turmoil.

6. Our Call To Action

- None of this happens in a vacuum; the Mission relies on the support of individuals and churches to continue. We can all play a part:
 - o Prayer: Lift up seafarers and their families. Pray for protection, strong mental health, and contentment as they serve far from home.
 - o Financial Support: Consider contributing to the Mission to Seafarers so they can respond whenever a Joseph cries out.
 - o Volunteering: If you live near a port, there may be opportunities to visit ships, provide transport, or offer hospitality.
 - o Locally, we are also surrounded by people weathering storms. Christ’s presence with us in the boat calls us to extend His calm wherever we see anxiety, isolation, and need. It might be a neighbour who is unwell or a colleague burdened by debt—Jesus calls us to be channels of His peace.

7. Conclusion

- As we consider the story of Jesus calming the storm, remember that He is with us in every tempest we face. Just as He brought peace to the disciples and Joseph, He offers that same peace to each of us. May we trust in His sovereignty, find solace in His presence, and extend His love to those navigating the storms of life.



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