

THERE'S A BLESSING IN THE STORM!

Mark 4:35-41

My theme comes from the title of a recording by Kirk Franklin. In order to really believe *There is a blessing in the storm*, let's start to look at the word "S-T-O-R-M" differently. Storm is defined in the dictionary, as "*a violent disturbance, dominated by strong winds.*" As Christians, we are called by God to respond to storms in a way that causes us to grow in trust of God and to witness to others of God's presence in our lives.

Evening comes to all of us. Evening is depicted in scripture as a time of trouble. Christians, as well as non-Christians experience dark days. We *all* experience dark days. In the text we find the disciples, in the evening, **in the dark**. They had so quickly forgotten that Jesus, by just *speaking a word* had brought healing to the centurion's servant, was on the ship with them. Jesus said "Let us go over to the other side." Now, how many of you know that when Jesus declares something, **it will** come to pass? Jesus said it, I believe it. And the songwriter adds I'm going to take him at his word. He said let us go over to the other side. **Life is a journey and if we're going to make it to the other side, we'd better be on the right side.** "*If Jesus Goes With Me, I'll Go Anywhere*". HALLELUJAH!!! The text says they took Jesus along, just as he was, in the boat. ³⁷And **there arose a great storm of wind, [^aof hurricane proportions] and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.** In this life, **we will** have storms. In this life **we will** have tribulations. In this life **we will** have storms of disappointment, sickness, diseases, *all manner of afflictions*. Storms messing with our money, *storms* messing with our relationships, *storms* messing with our bodies, *storms* messing with our minds. Jesus said, "*In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:33b) **We will** have storms.

Let's look at Jesus, our perfect example. What did Jesus do in the midst of this *great storm*? ³⁸And **he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow*****: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? ³⁹And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. **Hush now! Be still (muzzled)!** And the wind ceased (^bsank to rest as if exhausted by its beating), and there was [ⁱimmediately] a great calm (^ca perfect peacefulness).

We've established that storms will come. In fact, they are inescapable. If you're not in a storm, you're either coming out of a storm or headed for one. So I want to encourage you on today, "Hold on and don't give up! There is a blessing in the storm!"

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