

**When Jesus Makes Us Wait**  
*Where's the Savior When I'm Stuck on Stormy Seas?*

Lori Sealy

Intro:

- I. **An Unsettling Storm** (*Matthew 14:22-31*)
  - A. The disciples face a downpour.
    - *God is sovereign over our circumstances. (vs 22)*
    - *God can seem absent in our circumstances. (vs 23)*
    - *We may have to fight fiercely through our circumstances. (vs 24)*
    - *Christ will come to us in our circumstances. (vs 25)*
    - *We can get confused in the chaos of our circumstances. (vs 26)*
    - *Jesus soothes frightened souls in spite of circumstances. (vs 27)*
  - B. Peter takes a plunge.
    - *Peter's passion. (vs 28-29)*
    - *Christ's condescension. (vs 29)*
    - *A sinner's struggle. (vs 30a)*
    - *A saint's supplication. (vs 30b)*
    - *Christ's compassion. (vs 31)*
- II. **A Rescuing Redeemer** (*Matthew 14:32-33*)
  - A. The storm had an end. (vs 32)
    - *Look at your suffering through the lens of the gospel.*
    - *Look at your suffering in the light of eternity.*
  - B. The storm had a purpose. (vs. 33)
    - *They knew Jesus more fully.*
    - *They worshipped Jesus more faithfully.*

Conclusion:

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR WHEN JESUS MAKES US WAIT / MATTHEW 14:22-23

Today we talked about the story of Jesus coming to His disciples on the stormy seas during the fourth watch of the night. We discussed His sovereignty in the storm, His coming to them in compassion (after He'd had them wait for quite a while), His calming of the chaos that sought to sink them, and their response of worship when they beheld His might and majesty.

As you meet in small groups, take some time to talk about the following things:

- Our text tells us that Jesus sent the disciples into the storm. In other words, He was sovereign in their circumstances—as He is in ours.\* Does the thought of God's sovereignty in your suffering bring you comfort or make you cringe? Explain your answer?
- We discussed the fact that God's absolute sovereignty is never separated from His absolute goodness. Does the knowledge of that inseparable union of goodness and sovereignty help you when you find that He has sent you into a storm? Why or why not?
- During the fourth watch of the night, Jesus came walking on the water to rescue His disciples from the stormy seas. There are many fascinating parts to this section of the story. (i.e., Jesus seeming absent for a season, coming on His own timetable, and arriving with miraculous water walking power. And then we have the disciples' confusion about who Jesus is as He moves towards them.) What scenes in this section strike you as you think about your own struggles to survive "stormy seas"? Why?
- As Jesus approached the battered boat, we find the disciples scared by what they saw (the miraculous approach of their Redeemer walking on the water) and then soothed by what they heard ("Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."). We talked about the fact that we are called to "walk by faith and not by sight" and that "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God." The truths of God's Word can and should be a great source of solace for us in hard times. Sadly, when people are suffering we sometimes act more like the "friends" of Job—bludgeoning others with ill-timed and ill-applied Bible verses - than we act like the Friend named Jesus. How can we wield the Word well in each other's lives—how can we help and not hurt with our use of Scripture - during times of trial and tragedy? Feel free to give examples from your own experience.
- What lessons do you learn from Peter – from His passion to be with Jesus and from His plunge into the sea as he took his eyes off of Jesus?
- In the last section of this story, we discussed how storms eventually have an end (either in this life or in the next) and how storms always have a purpose (two of those being that we would know Jesus more fully and worship Him more faithfully). How can knowing there will be an end and knowing that there is a positive purpose help you when you find yourself stuck on stormy seas? How have you practically seen these promises play out in your pain?
- What most pierced you in this passage?

\*If you're struggling with this idea of God's sovereignty in suffering, take some time to look at Psalm 103:19, Isaiah 45:6-7 & 46:10, Lamentations 3:37-38, Exodus 4:11, and Ephesians 1:11. You might also revisit the story of Job and Joseph.