

5/5/13

MATTHEW: THE KING HAS COME, WEEK 108

TITLE: THE STORMS OF LIFE

TEXT: MATTHEW 14:22-27

INTRODUCTION: AS WE READ OUR BIBLES, WE DISCOVER THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF STORMS, TRIALS, FOR THE BELIEVER.

* NO. 1 STORMS OF CORRECTION, WHEN GOD LOVINGLY DISCIPLINES US TO CORRECT WRONG BEHAVIOR FOR OUR ULTIMATE GOOD AND HIS GLORY, HEBREWS 12:6-8, PROVERBS 3:11&12, JOB 5:17.

** SO WE HAVE STORMS OF CORRECTION AND NO. 2 STORMS OF PERFECTION, WHEN OUR GREAT GOD PUTS US THROUGH A STORM NOT TO CORRECT WRONG BEHAVIOR, BUT TO PERFECT OUR FAITH AND TRUST AND GROWTH IN HIM, WHAT WE MIGHT CALL SANCTIFYING STORMS.

*** FOR EXAMPLE JONAH WAS IN A STORM BECAUSE HE DISOBEYED GOD AND HAD TO BE CORRECTED. HE RAN AWAY FROM A PLACE GOD WANTED HIM TO GO.

**** WHEREAS THE DISCIPLES IN OUR TEXT TODAY WERE IN A STORM BECAUSE THEY OBEYED JESUS IN WHAT HE TOLD THEM TO DO, TO GET IN A BOAT AND CROSS THE SEA OF GALILEE, BUT THEIR STORM WAS FOR PERFECTION, TO LET THEM KNOW THAT CHRIST CAN BE TRUSTED IN THE TIME OF STORM, TO GROW THEM.

(2) NOW EARLIER IN MATTHEW, IN MATT. 8:23-27, JESUS TESTED THE DISCIPLES IN A STORM, WHEN HE WAS IN THE BOAT WITH THEM, AND HE CALMED THE STORM.

* BUT NOW JESUS TESTED THEM BY BEING OUT OF THE BOAT DURING THE STORM, AND AGAIN AFTER DOING WHAT HE TOLD THEM TO DO.

** YET MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE THE MISTAKEN IDEA THAT **OBEEDIENCE TO GOD'S WILL** PRODUCES "**SMOOTH SAILING**".

*** BUT THIS IS NOT TRUE. AND IF YOU WOULD NEVER FACE A STORM, YOU WOULD NEVER KNOW HOW TO HELP OTHERS IN THE TIME OF STORM, AND BE REFINED.

**** AND MORE IMPORTANT, YOU WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF GOD ON YOUR BEHALF UNTIL YOU ARE STRUNG OUT TO THE EXTREMITY OF A TRIAL AND BECOME TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON HIM.

- AND TO BE TOTALLY DEPENDENT UPON HIM IS EXACTLY WHERE OUR LORD WANTS US TO BE. TO BE DEPENDENT AND INTERDEPENDENT NOT INDEPENDENT.

(3) AND BOY DO WE GET INDEPENDENT WHEN THINGS ARE GOING OUR WAY, WHEN WE HAVE **SMOOTH SAILING. AND WE NORMALLY DON'T** LEARN A WHOLE LOT DURING THOSE TIMES.

* BUT WE CAN LEARN SO MUCH THROUGH STORMS. AND THE FACT OF THE MATTER TODAY IS LIFE IS STORMY. IT CAN BE PAINFUL.

** AND SOME SUFFER MORE THAN OTHERS, BUT ALL OF US SUFFER TO SOME DEGREE, AND IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

*** BUT AS BELIEVERS WE CAN HAVE THE CONFIDENCE THAT OUR LORD IS IN CONTROL OF THE STORM, THAT HE WILL BE WITH US IN THE STORM, AND THAT IN A SENSE, COMES TO US IN A SPECIAL WAY IN THE TIME OF STORM AS HE DID WITH THE DISCIPLES IN OUR TEXT TODAY.

**** BELOVED, THE STORM IS NEVER SO SEVERE, THE NIGHT IS NEVER SO BLACK, AND THE BOAT IS NEVER SO FRAIL THAT HE IS NOT THERE AND AT WORK!

(4) IN THE O.T. IN ISA. 43:1-3A, THE LORD SAYS THIS TO HIS CHILDREN, THE CHILDREN OF **ISRAEL IN THIS CONTEXT: "BUT NOW THUS** SAYS THE LORD YOUR CREATOR, O JACOB, AND HE WHO FORMED YOU, O **ISRAEL, "DO NOT FEAR,** FOR I HAVE REDEEMED YOU; I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME; YOU ARE MINE! WHEN YOU PASS THROUGH THE WATERS, I WILL BE WITH YOU; AND THROUGH THE RIVERS, THEY WILL NOT OVERFLOW YOU. WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THE FIRE, YOU WILL NOT BE SCORCHED, NOR WILL THE FLAME BURN YOU. FOR I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, YOUR SAVIOR."

* AND CHILD OF GOD, MANY OF THOSE TRUTHS ARE REAFFIRMED IN THE N.T., AND THOSE ARE TRUTHS THAT SHOULD TRANSFORM US AS WE GO THROUGH THE STORMS OF LIFE.

** WELL, OUR LORD WANTED TO TRANSFORM HIS DISCIPLES AND TEACH THEM SOME THINGS THROUGH A STORM THAT HE WOULD PUT THEM THROUGH IN MATT. 14:22 AND ON.

***** AND WE'LL TRY TO UNDERSTAND AND APPLY**
THIS TEXT FOR OUR LIVES AS FOLLOWERS OF
CHRIST.

****** IN LIGHT OF THAT, I'VE TITLED THE**
MESSAGE TODAY, "THE STORMS OF LIFE."

(5) AND UNDER THAT TITLE WE'LL LOOK AT 3
THINGS THIS MORNING, NO. 1 THE SEPARATION
OF CHRIST FROM HIS DISCIPLES AND THE
MULTITUDES, VV. 22&23; NO. 2 THE STORM THE
DISCIPLES WILL BE PUT THROUGH AND THEIR
FEAR, VV. 24-26; AND NO. 3 THE SAVIOR, AS
JESUS COMES AND LIT. SAVES THESE MEN IN
THE STORM, V. 27.

* AND WITHOUT FURTHER INTRODUCTION, LOOK
AT VERSE 22, WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR
FIRST POINT TODAY, THE SEPARATION. LOOK
AT MATT. 14:22 PLEASE.

I. THE SEPARATION, (READ V. 22)

A. NOW MATTHEW RECORDS THAT IMMEDIATELY OR STRAIGHTWAY AFTER FEEDING 5000 MEN PLUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN, JESUS MADE OR CONSTRAINED HIS DISCIPLES TO GET INTO A BOAT AND CROSS THE SEA.

* NOW UNDERSTAND THAT THE VERB MADE OR CONSTRAINED, DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, IS VERY STRONG AND CAN BE TRANSLATED COMPELLED OR FORCED.

** WHICH LEADS ME TO ASK A QUESTION, WHY WOULD JESUS WANT TO SEND HIS DISCIPLES AWAY AND LEAVE HIM WITH THE CROWD, AND WHY WOULD HE BE SO FORCEFUL ABOUT IT?

*** WELL, IN JOHN 6:15, THE PARALLEL PASSAGE TO OUR TEXT TODAY, MOST LIKELY GIVES US THE ANSWER, FOR IN JOHN 6:15 AFTER JESUS FEEDS THE MULTITUDES, JESUS PERCEIVES THAT THE MULTITUDES WERE INTENDING TO COME AND TAKE HIM BY FORCE, TO MAKE HIM KING.

**** AND OF COURSE THE FRENZY THAT WAS BUILDING AT THIS TIME WAS NOT A RESULT OF SPIRITUAL REPENTANCE OR SPIRITUAL DESIRES, BUT POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL MOTIVES OUT OF **GOD'S WILL.**

1. I MEAN FEEDING THE MULTITUDES WAS THE TOPPER, JESUS COULD HEAL AND WORK MIRACLES, BUT FEEDING ALL THESE PEOPLE, THE RESPONSE WAS: HE GETS OUR VOTE FOR KING.

* AND THERE HAD TO BE ELECTRICITY IN THE **AIR, AND THE DISCIPLES CERTAINLY DIDN'T** WANT TO LEAVE WHEN ALL THIS EXCITEMENT IS GOING ON.

** **AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH MAKING** JESUS KING? **"ISN'T THIS THE PLAN OF GOD?"** WAS PROBABLY GOING THROUGH THEIR MINDS. THE JESUS BANDWAGON HAD REALLY PICKED UP STEAM, AND THE DISCIPLES HAD JOINED BEFORE THERE WAS ANY FANFARE, WHEN THERE WAS NO PRESTIGE AND NO POWER.

*** NOW WHY WOULD THEY HAVE TO LEAVE WHEN THEY COULD HAVE THEIR LORD MADE AN EARTHLY KING AND BE ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF SOMETHING GOOD AND ENJOY LIFE A LITTLE BIT? (THAT LOGIC)

2. WELL, THE REALITY OF THE MATTER WAS, JESUS WAS NOT AN EARTHLY KING, AND HIS KINGDOM WAS NOT OF THIS WORLD.

* JESUS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MOTIVES OF THE PEOPLE WERE SELFISH AND POLITICAL AND THIS WAS NOT A PART OF THE PLAN OF HIS FATHER.

** SO THE LORD PROTECTS HIS OWN FROM TEMPTATION AT THIS TIME. FOR YOU SEE THE **LORD KNEW THE CROWD'S EXCITEMENT** WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIS DISCIPLES TO HANDLE, SO HE SENT THEM AWAY TO REMOVE THEM FROM TEMPTATION. (THEY WOULD HAVE GOT SUCKED INTO THE EMOTION OF ALL THIS.)

*** JESUS WAS FULLY AWARE OF THEIR WEAKNESS AND THEIR SUSCEPTABILITY TO THE POLITICAL PLANS OF THE CROWD.

**** THEN FACTOR IN THAT JUDAS ISCARIOT MIGHT HAVE FOSTERED FURTHER CONFUSION IN THE RANKS OF THE DISCIPLES FOR THIS WAS WHY HE WAS FOLLOWING JESUS, TO GET ON THE GROUND FLOOR OF HIS POLITICAL REIGN.

3. SO JESUS MADE THE DISCIPLES LEAVE TO **PROTECT THEM AND AS WE'LL SEE TO TEACH** THEM TO DEPEND ON HIM MORE.

* AND HE SENDS THEM TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, AND MOST LIKELY LETS THEM KNOW THAT HE WILL MEET UP WITH THEM LATER.

** AND IN THE PROCESS OF IT ALL HE SENDS THE MULTITUDES AWAY.

*** THEY WERE DETERMINED TO MAKE HIM KING IN THEIR OWN WAY AND FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES, BUT THEY COULD NOT, THIS WAS NOT THE PLAN OF GOD.

**** SO WITHOUT ARGUMENT OR FANFARE, JESUS SIMPLY DISPERSED THE MULTITUDES. NOW LOOK AT V. 23 TO SEE WHAT HE DOES AFTER HE SEPARATES HIMSELF FROM HIS DISCIPLES AND THE MULTITUDES.

B. READ V. 23. NOW WITH THE DISCIPLES GONE AND THE CROWD DISPERSED, JESUS WALKED UP INTO THE MOUNTAIN FOR PRAYER.

* AND FINDING SECLUSION FOR A TIME OF PRAYER WAS NOT OUT OF CHARACTER FOR JESUS, LUKE 6:12 SAYS: (QUOTE IT) - ALSO TIMES IN GETHSEMANE.

** NOW JESUS KNEW THAT HE NEEDED TO GET ALONE WITH HIS FATHER IN SOLITUDE, TO BE ALONE WITH HIS FATHER, AND WHAT HE PRAYED ABOUT SPECIFICALLY IS NOT RECORDED, BUT NO DOUBT HE WOULD INTERCEDE FOR HIS DISCIPLES FOR WHAT THEY WOULD BE GOING THROUGH.

*** AND IT WOULD BE FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME, FOR V. 23 SAYS WHEN IT WAS EVENING.

**** AND THIS IS WHAT WAS CALLED THE SECOND EVENING ACCORDING TO JEWISH DEFINITION, FOR THE FIRST EVENING OF THE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED ON THAT DAY TOOK PLACE FROM 3:00-6:00 P.M. WHEN JESUS FED THE MULTITUDES, V. 15 .

1. NOW THE NEXT EVENING TIME WAS FROM 6:00-9:00 P.M. AND AS WE PUT THAT TOGETHER WITH WHEN JESUS LEFT TO GO TO THE DISCIPLES BY WALKING ON THE WATER, WHICH ACCORDING TO V. 25 WAS THE FOURTH WATCH OF THE NIGHT WHICH WAS FROM 3 A.M. TO 6 A.M., AS WE PUT THAT TOGETHER, WE HAVE A SPAN OF A MINIMUM OF 6 HOURS FROM 9:00 P.M. TO 3:00 A.M. AND UP TO 12 HOURS IF HE PRAYED FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 6:00 A.M.

* SO REGARDLESS OF HOW LONG IT WAS, IT WAS A PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME. AND I COULD SAFELY SAY, THAT PROLONGED TIMES OF PRAYER FOR BELIEVERS TODAY DO NOT HAPPEN A LOT.

** PRAYER IS A SPIRITUAL EXERCISE THAT WE TALK ABOUT A LOT, BUT DO VERY LITTLE OF IT, AND IT SHOWS, RIGHT?

*** AND YES, WE NEED TO PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, I THESSALONIANS 5:17, BEING IN AN ATTITUDE OF PRAYER, THAT PRAYER SHOULD BE LIKE BREATHING, BUT THERE NEEDS TO BE REGULAR TIMES OF QUOTE GETTING INTO OUR PRAYER CLOSETS, GETTING ALONE WITH THE LORD FOR PROLONGED UNINTERRUPTED TIMES, **AND THAT'S** VERY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF HECTIC SCHEDULES FOR MANY. (IT NORMALLY HAS TO TAKE PLACE REAL EARLY IN THE MORNING OR LATE AT NIGHT.) AND HOW ABOUT FOR YOUNG MOTHERS?

**** BUT WITH JUST ABOUT ANYONE WITH A BUSY SCHEDULE, PRIORITIES ARE KEY, PLANNING TO PRAY.

2. JOHN PIPER WRITES IN HIS BOOK "DESIRING GOD" **AND I QUOTE: "UNLESS I'M BADLY MISTAKEN, ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS SO MANY OF GOD'S CHILDREN DON'T HAVE A SIGNIFICANT LIFE OF PRAYER IS NOT SO MUCH THAT WE DON'T WANT TO, BUT THAT WE DON'T PLAN TO."**

* IF YOU WANT TO TAKE A FOUR-WEEK **VACATION, YOU DON'T JUST GET UP ONE SUMMER MORNING AND SAY, "HEY, LET'S GO TODAY!" YOU WON'T HAVE ANYTHING READY. YOU WON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO. NOTHING HAS BEEN PLANNED.**

** BUT THAT IS HOW MANY OF US TREAT PRAYER. WE GET UP DAY AFTER DAY AND REALIZE THAT SIGNIFICANT TIMES OF PRAYER SHOULD BE A PART OF OUR LIFE, BUT **NOTHING'S EVER READY. WE DON'T KNOW** WHERE TO GO. NOTHING HAS BEEN PLANNED. NO TIME. NO PLACE. NO PROCEDURE.

*** AND WE ALL KNOW THAT THE OPPOSITE OF PLANNING IS NOT A WONDERFUL FLOW OF DEEP, SPONTANEOUS EXPERIENCES IN PRAYER. THE OPPOSITE OF PLANNING IS THE RUT. IF **YOU DON'T PLAN A VACATION YOU WILL** PROBABLY STAY HOME AND WATCH TV.

**** THE NATURAL, UNPLANNED FLOW OF SPIRITUAL LIFE SINKS TO THE LOWEST EBB OF VITALITY. THERE IS A RACE TO BE RUN AND A FIGHT TO BE FOUGHT. IF YOU WANT RENEWAL IN YOUR LIFE OF PRAYER YOU MUST PLAN TO SEE IT.

3. THEREFORE, MY SIMPLE EXHORTATION IS THIS: LET US TAKE TIME THIS VERY DAY TO RETHINK OUR PRIORITIES AND HOW PRAYER FITS IN. MAKE SOME NEW RESOLVE. TRY SOME NEW VENTURE WITH GOD. SET A TIME. SET A PLACE. CHOOSE A PORTION OF SCRIPTURE TO **GUIDE YOU. DON'T BE TYRANNIZED BY THE** PRESS OF BUSY DAYS.

* WE ALL NEED MID-COURSE CORRECTIONS. MAKE THIS A DAY OF TURNING TO PRAYER - FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND FOR THE FULLNESS OF YOUR JOY." **(END QUOTE)**

** NOW I REALLY LIKE WHAT PIPER HAS TO SAY. AND WE PLAN FOR ALL KINDS OF THINGS, WE **HAVE TO OR WE DON'T GET** THINGS DONE. HOW ABOUT PLANNING FOR PRAYER?

*** IF IT IS A PRIORITY, WE MUST. THEN WE LIKE JESUS CAN HAVE PROLONGED PERIODS OF FELLOWSHIP WITH THE FATHER.

**** WELL JESUS SEPARATES HIMSELF FROM HIS DISCIPLES AND FROM THE MULTITUDES TO PRAY. AND AGAIN NO DOUBT ONE OF THE **THINGS HE'LL PRAY FOR IS HIS DISCIPLES WHO ARE GOING THROUGH THE STORM, WHICH IS OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE STORM. LOOK AT V. 24 PLEASE.**

II. THE STORM, (READ V. 24)

A. NOW THE BOAT THAT THE DISCIPLES WERE IN WAS ALREADY MANY STADIA AWAY, LIT. A CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM LAND, IN THE MIDST OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, WHICH IN OUR **LORD'S DAY WAS ABOUT 13 MILES LONG AND 8 MILES WIDE.**

*** AND IN JOHN'S ACCOUNT OF THIS PASSAGE, IN JOHN 6:19, HE COMMUNICATES THAT THE DISCIPLES WERE OUT 3-4 MILES FROM SHORE.**

** AND OUT IN THE MIDST OF THE SEA OF GALILEE, WHERE VIOLENT STORMS COULD POP UP AT ANY TIME, THE DISCIPLES BOAT WAS BATTERED AND TOSSED AND BUFFETED BY THE WAVES FROM THE WIND OF THIS STORM. IT WAS A TERRIBLE STORM AND THEY HAD BEEN IN IT FOR QUITE A FEW HOURS AND ONLY PROGRESSED 3-4 MILES.

*** NOW UNDERSTAND THAT THE DISCIPLES WERE IN THE MIDST OF THIS TERRIBLE STORM BECAUSE THEY OBEYED JESUS. HE MADE THEM GET INTO THE BOAT AND LEAVE.

**** AND THE STORM CAME BECAUSE THEY WERE IN THE WILL OF GOD AND NOT LIKE JONAH WHO WAS OUT OF THE WILL OF GOD.

1. NOW DID JESUS KNOW THAT THE STORM WAS COMING? WELL, CERTAINLY, HE ORDAINED IT. SO JESUS DELIBERATELY DIRECTED THEM INTO THE STORM.

* BUT UNDERSTAND THIS. THE DISCIPLES WERE SAFER IN THE STORM **IN GOD'S WILL THAN ON LAND WITH THE CROWDS OUT OF GOD'S WILL.**

** AND BELIEVER, WE MUST NEVER JUDGE OUR SECURITY ON THE BASIS OF CIRCUMSTANCES **ALONE. FOR WHEREVER IT'S AT, IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO BE IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S WILL** THAN TO BE IN OUR PLACE OF SECURITY OUT OF **GOD'S WILL.** IN SYRIA, THAN IN YOUR HOUSE WITH YOUR ADT ALARM SYSTEM.

*** AND MANY TIMES GOD MUST MOVE US OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE TO TEACH US. AND **THAT'S DIFFICULT FOR SOME OF US FOR WE ARE** ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THE SAFE PLACE, THE PLACE OF SECURITY. WE NEED TO BE STRETCHED.

**** BUT WHEN WE FIND OURSELVES IN THE STORM BECAUSE WE HAVE OBEYED THE LORD, WE MUST REMEMBER THAT HE BROUGHT US THERE AND HE WILL CARE FOR US.

- **AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE'LL DO FOR HIS**
DISCIPLES, LOOK AT V. 25 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 25. NOW AS I MENTIONED EARLIER
THE FOURTH WATCH WAS BETWEEN 3-6 A.M.,
PROBABLY CLOSER TO 6 A.M. TOWARD SUNRISE,
BECAUSE THE DISCIPLES WILL SEE JESUS.

* BUT BETWEEN 3-6 A.M. JESUS COMES TO HIS
DISCIPLES WALKING ON THE WATER.

** AND THIS MIRACLE OVER CREATION IS
COMMUNICATED AS A SIMPLE FACT BY
MATTHEW. NO BIG THING FOR JESUS, FOR
CERTAINLY THE ONE WHO MADE THE SEA COULD
WALK ON IT IF HE SO CHOSE.

*** AND HE KNEW RIGHT WHERE THEY WERE, SO
HE USED THE STORMY SEA AS HIS PATHWAY TO
HIS DISCIPLES.

**** AND LET ME SAY HERE, OFTEN WE FEEL
LIKE JESUS HAS DESERTED US WHEN WE'RE
GOING THROUGH A STORM.

1. BUT HE'LL NEVER LEAVE US OR FORSAKE US,
AND IN A SENSE WILL COME TO US IN THE TIME
OF STORM TO HELP, MATTHEW 28:20, HEBREWS
13:5&6.

* SO HE IS ALWAYS WITH US. AND BELOVED HE
MAY NOT COME AT THE TIME WE THINK HE
SHOULD COME, BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHEN WE
NEED HIM THE MOST.

** BELOVED, JESUS WAITED UNTIL THE SHIP
WAS 3-4 MILES OUT BEFORE HE CAME, SO ALL
HUMAN HOPE WAS GONE. HE WAS TESTING THE
DISCIPLE'S FAITH, AND THIS MEANT REMOVING
EVERY HUMAN PROP, REMOVING ALL THE
SECURITY BLANKETS AND HUMAN MEANS OF
HOPE. (THAT'S WHERE OUR LORD HAS TO PUT
US AT TIMES).

*** AND YOU MAY ASK AT THIS POINT, WHY DID
JESUS WALK ON THE WATER? WELL, LET ME
SUGGEST A POSSIBLE ANSWER.

**** TO SHOW HIS DISCIPLES THAT THE VERY THING THEY FEARED (THE SEA) WAS ONLY A STAIRCASE FOR HIM TO COME TO THEM. HE WAS IN CONTROL OF WHAT THEY FEARED.

2. AND OFTEN WE FEAR THE DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES OF LIFE, SUCH AS SURGERY, LOSING OUR HEALTH, LOSING A LOVED ONE, LOSING OUR JOB, AND OTHER THINGS, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT THESE EXPERIENCES BRING JESUS CHRIST CLOSER TO US.

* WE DRAW CLOSE TO THE LORD DURING THOSE TIMES, AND ALTHOUGH IT MAY BE THROUGH A **VEIL OF TEARS, WE SAY THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT** I NEEDED TO GO THROUGH AT THAT TIME FOR JESUS TO WALK OUT ON THE WATER TO ME.

**** AND AS WE GO BACK TO V. 25, THAT'S** EXACTLY WHAT JESUS DID, HE CAME TO HIS OWN, WALKING TO THEM ON THE WATER. NOW LOOK AT V. 26 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 26. NOW OBVIOUSLY THE DISCIPLES DID NOT RECOGNIZE JESUS HERE AND APPARENTLY THEY WERE NOT LOOKING FOR HIM.

* AND GREAT FEAR OVERTAKES THEM, THEY SEE A FIGURE WALKING ON THE SEA IN THE MIDST OF A STORM THAT IS KNOCKING THEM ALL OVER THE PLACE AND THEY WERE FRIGHTENED.

** AND THE WORD FRIGHTENED IN THE NAS IS TRANSLATED TROUBLED IN THE KJV AND NKJV AND TERRIFIED IN THE NIV AND ESV AND LIT. MEANS TO BE DISTRESSED, PERPLEXED, TO BE AGITATED. AND TERRIFIED IS A GOOD TRANSLATION HERE.

*** AND THEY WERE TERRIFIED SAYING, IT IS A GHOST, LIT. A PHANTOM. THEY WERE HORRIFIED, IN A STATE OF PANIC, WHAT OTHER THING THAN A SPIRIT BEING COULD BE OUT WALKING ON THE WATER AND THEY CRY OUT IN FEAR, THE GREEK WORD HERE BEING THE WORD WE DERIVE OUR ENGLISH WORD PHOBIA.

**** THERE WAS DREAD, TERROR FROM WHAT THEY SAW. AND LET ME REMIND YOU THAT FEAR AND FAITH CANNOT LIVE IN THE SAME HEART, FOR FEAR ALWAYS BLINDS THE EYES TO THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD.

1. AND THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF THE STORM WAS TO HELP THE DISCIPLES GROW IN THEIR FAITH. AFTER ALL, JESUS WOULD ONE DAY LEAVE THEM, AND THEY WOULD FACE MANY STORMS IN THEIR MINISTRIES.

* THEY HAD TO LEARN TO TRUST HIM EVEN THOUGH HE WAS NOT PRESENT WITH THEM, **AND EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKED LIKE HE DIDN'T** CARE. BUT ULTIMATELY AGAIN THEY WERE IN THE BOAT IN THE STORM THROUGH DOING WHAT JESUS WANTED THEM TO DO. SO HE HAD THEM IN A PLACE HE COULD TEACH THEM AND HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THEM.

** AND HE COMES TO THEM AS A PHYSICAL SAVIOR AT THIS TIME, FOR LOOK AT V. 27, OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE SAVIOR. **WE'RE** NOT GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF TIME HERE.

III. THE SAVIOR (READ V. 27)

A. NOW ALTHOUGH JESUS WAS TESTING THE **DISCIPLE'S FAITH, HE UNDERSTOOD THEIR** FRAILITY. HE CALMED THEIR FEARS BY SIMPLY SAYING, TAKE COURAGE IT IS I, DO NOT BE AFRAID.

* AND TWO COMMENTARIES I STUDIED SUGGESTED THAT THE LITERAL RENDERING IS I CAN BE TRANSLATED, I AM, AND UPON FURTHER STUDY, THAT IS POSSIBLE.

** SUGGESTING, I, YAHWEH AM HERE, THE I AM IS HERE, THE SELF-EXISTANT ETERNAL GOD, SO FEAR NOT! AND WHEN THE I AM IS NEAR, WHAT IS THERE TO BE AFRAID OF?

*** BUT REGARDLESS IF THAT IS THE IDEA, THE VOICE OF JESUS COMING OUT OF THE MIDST OF THE STORM WILL BRING PEACE TO THEIR HEARTS AND ULTIMATELY WORSHIP, **AS WE'LL** SEE LORD WILLING NEXT SUNDAY.

**** BUT THE COMFORT CAME BY KNOWING HE WAS NEAR AND THERE WAS NO GHOST.

AND AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY (1) HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE RECORDED IN THE SCRIPTURES THE PHRASE FEAR NOT? WELL, IN THE NAU THE WORDS DO NOT FEAR ARE USED 58 TIMES, QUOTE ISA. 41:10&13.

* AND NO DOUBT WE HAVE ALL THESE ADMONITIONS FOR THE LORD DOES NOT WANT US TO LIVE IN FEAR AND WITH PHOBIAS IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

** AND OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE A STRONG PROPENSITY TO LAPSE OVER INTO FEAR AND **ANXIETY FOR A MULTITUDE OF THINGS, BUT I'M** REMINDED OF II TIM. 1:7 WHICH SAYS: (QUOTE IT).

*** AND BELOVED, WE ALL HAVE AND WILL GO THROUGH STORMS OF LIFE. AND IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM, TRUST, NOT FEAR, CONFIDENCE IN OUR SOVEREIGN GOD AND NOT ANXIETY AND PANIC SHOULD BE OUR RESPONSE.

**** BELOVED, WE WILL NEVER FIND OURSELVES IN A PLACE WHERE CHRIST CANNOT FIND US, AND NO STORM IS TOO SEVERE FOR HIM TO SAVE US FROM IT.

(2) AND THAT'S WHAT JESUS WANTED TO TEACH HIS DISCIPLES THAT DAY. THERE WERE GOING TO BE MANY STORMS AND FRAIL SHIPS IN THEIR LIVES AND IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO WOULD FOLLOW HIS PATH.

* AND THEY NEEDED TO KNOW THAT GOD WALKS ON WATER, AND THAT HE COMES TO THEM IN THE STORM. HE MAKES THE STORM HIS VERY PATH.

** AND THAT SHOULD TAKE AWAY FEAR. I MEAN WHAT IS THERE TO FEAR? CHRIST IS EITHER ON THE MOUNTAIN INTERCEDING FOR US WITH THE FATHER, OR HE IS ON THE SEA WALKING TO US.

***** IN EITHER CASE WE ARE SECURE, WE'RE** SECURE IN HIS PRAYERS, HIS POWER, AND HIS PROTECTION. AND THAT SHOULD GIVE US GREAT HOPE AND CONFIDENCE IN THE STORMS OF LIFE.

**** I CLOSE WITH PSALM 62:8. IT SAYS:
(QUOTE IT AND PRAY)