

Matthew 8:23-27

Jesus Calms the Storm



Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 8:23	Jesus gets into the boat and His disciples follow Him.	Boat – vessel of travel; Disciples (mathētēs) – learners, followers.	Following Jesus often means places of testing. The disciples’ obedience leads them into the storm.	Faithful obedience doesn’t guarantee calm seas. Expect trials as part of discipleship.
Matthew 8:24	A furious storm arises, waves sweep over the boat, but Jesus is asleep.	Storm (seismos) – literally “earthquake”, showing violent shaking; Asleep – symbol of divine peace and trust.	Storms reveal the difference between human fear and divine rest. Jesus is never shaken by what terrifies us.	When life feels out of control, trust in Christ’s calm presence. His peace is greater than our panic.
Matthew 8:25	The disciples cry out, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”	Save (sōzō) – deliver, rescue, preserve; Perishing (apollymetha) – utter ruin or destruction.	Crisis exposes where we run first – fear or faith. The disciples had the right instinct: cry to Jesus.	Instead of drowning in worry, call out to Jesus. Prayer is the lifeline in every storm.
Matthew 8:26	Jesus replies, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then He rebukes the winds and waves, and it becomes completely calm.	Little faith (oligopistos) – lacking trust, wavering; Rebuked (epetimēsen) – strong authoritative command.	Fear and faith cannot dominate together. Jesus’ authority brings peace. Where chaos once ruled	Trust in Jesus’ power over every storm. Fear shrinks when faith grows.
Matthew 8:27	The men marvel, saying, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”	Obey (hypakouō) – to listen under authority, submit.	Jesus is revealed as Lord of creation, echoing God’s authority in the Psalms. The storm obeys Him, proving His divinity.	Stand in awe of Christ. The One who commands creation can surely handle your life’s storms.

Cross References

Matthew 8:23 – Jesus enters the boat

- **Mark 4:35-36** – Parallel account, “Let us go over to the other side.”
- **Luke 8:22** – Parallel, “One day Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Let’s go over to the other side of the lake.’”
- **John 6:17** – The disciples get into the boat, and Jesus comes to them in a storm.

Theme: Following Jesus sometimes means stepping directly into storms.

Matthew 8:24 – The storm arises, Jesus sleeps

- **Jonah 1:4-5** – A violent storm arises while Jonah sleeps in the ship.
- **Psalms 4:8** – “I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”
- **Nahum 1:3-4** – The Lord has His way in the whirlwind and storm.

Theme: God is sovereign over storms – Jesus’ sleep shows perfect trust in the Father.

Matthew 8:25 – “Lord, save us!”

- **Psalms 69:1** – “Save me, O God, for the waters have come up to my neck.”
- **Matthew 14:30** – Peter cries, “Lord, save me!” when sinking in the water.
- **Romans 10:13** – “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Theme: The right response to fear is to cry out to God for rescue.

Matthew 8:26 – Jesus calms the storm

- **Mark 4:39-40** – Jesus rebukes the wind and says, “Quiet! Be still!”
- **Psalms 107:28-29** – “They cried out to the Lord in their trouble...He stilled the storm to a whisper.”
- **Job 38:11** – God sets limits on the sea: “This far you may come and no farther.”

Theme: Jesus has the same authority over creation as Yahweh in the Old Testament.