

**“Rock Your World”**

**Matthew 8 v23-34**

**Scripture Ref: Matt 8:18; Jer 33:3; Matt 28:20; Is 41:10; Ps 9:10; Ps 89:8-9; 1 John 4:1-4; Rom 8:9-11; 1 Cor 3:16**

***Into the Storm***

23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

**1. Jesus is continuing on the journey that He started on earlier**

*And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. **Matt 8:18***

- a. **The Sea of Galilee is 680 feet below sea level, and directly to the north is Mt Hermon, which is 9,280 feet in elevation.**
  - b. **And there is a unique phenomena that happens there; Cold air from Mt Hermon descends through a small valley, funneling into the Sea of Galilee**
  - c. **And when that cold air interacts with the warmer air over the sea, it creates turbulence, and powerful storms can form in minutes.**
  - d. **Waves from these storms have been measured at 25 feet (some of you surfers suddenly want to go to Israel!)**
  - e. **So we are talking about a storm that formed in minutes, and was so severe that these seasoned fishermen were afraid!**
- 2. Real life situation – things are going along fine, your going along in life, doing what you have done a thousand times before, everything is perfectly normal.**
- a. **Then suddenly the winds pick up, the swells build, and you find yourself in the middle of a storm.!**
  - b. **Your world is rocked, and your afraid – and you’re a Christian, you know God, you know He’s there... right?**
  - c. **Or is He? Perhaps He doesn’t know about your situation, perhaps He is too busy taking care of bigger problems...**
  - d. **Or maybe He is asleep!**
- 3. The interesting thing is - the storm came because they followed Jesus!**

*And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. **Matt 8:18***

- a. **What might have been going through their mind “God, you told me to come here – didn’t you know a storm was coming?”**

**When your in the Storm: Call on Jesus!**

**4. But in the middle of this storm, they did the right thing – the called on Jesus:**

25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

*Jeremiah 33:3 Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*

26 But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?"

**5. Jesus wasn't upset that they woke him up – some people are not really pleasant when you wake them up –**

- a. **Jesus knew they would make it, as he told them:**
- b. **I think this was a question that Jesus knew the answer to, a rhetorical question... "why are you afraid? Don't you know who you are with? Don't you know what I am about?"**
- c. **Of course they did – I think maybe they forgot – they had that moment that we all might feel in the middle of a storm... "are you really there God?"**

*Matt 28:20 ... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

*Isa 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*

Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

*Ps 9:10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You;*

27 So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

**Ps 89:8-9**

*8 O LORD God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. 9 You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.*

**6. When the storms come, who you gonna call? Ghostbusters? No! You call upon the Lord!**

### ***Into the Spiritual Storm***

28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. 29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?"

30 Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. 31 So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine."

32 And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water.

7. **Jesus gets to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, to the “country of the Gergesenes”, which were a people who had migrated to the area east of the Sea, and established a few cities – probably the city of Hippos, on the coast.**
  - a. **And he runs right into two men who were demon possessed**
  - b. **These guys apparently live in the graveyard!**
  - c. **It was kind of ‘their turf’, no one went through that area because these guys were so threatening.**
  - d. **Yet Jesus goes right to where they were at.**
8. **See, most of us (me!), would have avoided that place, would have avoided those men. I would have gone around that graveyard!**
  - a. **Who wants to go and try to minister to two fierce demon-possessed men? That’s hard ministry!**
  - b. **You need prayer, your having a little problem, a little habit, maybe you have a cold, come on up we’ll pray for you!**
  - c. **But what if the situation is desperate; the habit is a stronghold, the person is terminal;**
  - d. **We might look at that situation and think “Wow, that’s too much, that situation is too far gone, someone else needs to handle that one!”**
  - e. **Everyone else avoided that place – Jesus right straight to it!**
  - f. **He walked right into the spiritual storm! He wasn’t surprised by these two men, He knew they would be there, He knew what the situation was, and He walked straight into it!**
  - g. **Everyone else was afraid of those men – Jesus went right up to them!**

### ***Jesus will Rock Your World***

9. **What’s my point? That NOTHING is too big for God**

- a. A leper, a hopeless medical case? No problem!
- b. A gentile Roman with a sick servant? No problem!
- c. A mother-in-law with a fever? No problem!
- d. Many people sick and possessed at one time? No problem!
- e. Big storm? No problem!
- f. Two guys that are evil and vicious and demonic? No problem!
- g. Are you getting the picture here? There is no problem, no situation, nothing that is too big or too hard or even too small for Jesus to get involved!
- h. The “Rock your world” kind of stuff – that no one else can touch... Jesus is there!

10. I find this exchange interesting because these demons had a *good understanding of eschatology*

- a. They knew who Jesus was – the Son of God
- b. They understood that Jesus had all power over them, and that they were completely under His authority.
- c. And they knew that there would come a day when they would be judged and cast into the lake of fire.

11. Because these demons had no doubt as to whom Jesus was, and they knew that they would be subject to His word, and so they beg Him “send us into the pigs!”

- a. The cool thing about this is that the demons could not even go into the pigs without Jesus’ permission.
- b. Why is that important? Because some Christians think that there is a demon around every corner, and that there is a demon of this smoking or demon of drinking or whatever, and if they aren’t careful they’ll be taken over by those demons.
- c. *“You have cable, and the demon of pornography is going to stick to through the Playboy channel!” (just like Poltergeist – they’ll reach out through the TV and grab you!)*
- d. And so we have whole churches that are not so much ‘demon possessed’ as they are “demon obsessed!”

**1 John 4:1-4**

*Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. 4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

**12. So we shouldn't worry that a demon is going to come out of something and go into you, if you are a Christian...**

- a. Because as a born-again child of God, the Spirit of God dwells in you!**

***Rom 8:9-11***

*9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. 10 And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

**1 Cor 3:16** *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

**13. So those two demons went into the pigs, and the pigs immediately ran into the sea and drowned.**

- a. Which is indicative of the intent of Satan and his fallen followers, their only goal is to destroy lives.**

**14. And it had an effect ...**

***But please don't Rock Our World...***

33 Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. 34 And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region.

**15. Can you believe this? These people cared more about their livestock business than they did about Jesus.**

- a. They were more concerned that Jesus' presence would bother the pigs, than the fact that He would heal the sick, deliver the demon-possessed, and set free people who were in bondage to Satan and sin!**
- b. It makes me think of our world today... Our culture would rather be politically correct than to speak the truth!**
- c. Our culture is more concerned about getting a deal on a plasma TV than the fact that they trampled a man to death on their way to the checkout counter.**
- d. We cannot put up anything that speaks of God because it might offend someone!**

**16. And if we are not careful, as Christians, we can get into that same mentality!**

- a. **These people of Hippos wanted everything to stay just the way it was –**
- b. **...they wanted what they had – demons and all - instead of the presence, power, and truth that Jesus brought; They wanted comfort!**
- c. **We must be careful not to come to the place in our Christian life where we have it all comfortable...**
  - i. **Got my job – my kids – my hobbies – everything is perfectly in its place...I got my church...**
  - ii. **but we don't want too much Jesus! Don't want anything too radical!**

**17. We need to realize – when we allow Christ to guide us – something radical is going to happen!**

- a. **Not talking about speaking gibberish or falling out –**
- b. **I'm talking deliverance, and freedom, and love, and rock your world Christianity!**

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