

I AM ... IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM

John 6:15-21

Introduction:

1. The Disciples' Perspective of the Storm

A) Remember the context – Jesus had brought them across the sea for a time of rest (Mark 6:31-32)

> The day was anything but restful – in fact it was another full day of ministry (John 6:1-12)

B) The excitement of the miracles – people healed / feeding of the 5,000

> The crowd was ready to crown Jesus as their king (John 6:15)

> Jesus told the disciples to get in the boat and row back to the other side (Mark 6:45)

C) They had begun the journey of rowing across the sea in the evening – and then a storm broke out

> The nature and cause of such storms on Galilee

> They had rowed for almost the entire night

> Tired, terrified, and troubled by Jesus' decisions they keep rowing although it seems futile

> Just when it seemed as though it couldn't get worse it did!

2. Jesus' Perspective of the Storm

A) Now it was time to send the multitudes away (Mark 6:45)

> Their response to the miracle wasn't right (John 6:15)

B) Now it was time to send the disciples away

> Their response to the miracle wasn't right either

They still don't understand who Jesus is and what He must do

Like the crowd, they failed to recognize the significance of the miracle

C) Now it is time for the Master to teach His disciples truths that can only be learned in a storm

> The events of this day, night, and next day in Jesus and His disciples lives are not accidental

D) Now is the time for Jesus to intercede

> Jesus has been watching over His disciples and praying on the mountain (Mark 6:48a)

> Jesus goes to them in the midst of the storm – not before the storm arrives

What does it mean that He would have walked by them? (Mark 6:48b)

E) Now is the time for the lesson – He has His students' attention

> Jesus says, "I AM. Stop being afraid!"

I AM! The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

I AM! The God of Moses who can part the Red Sea to deliver His people

I AM God!

I AM God who walks upon the waters of the storm

I AM God who calms the wind and waves with a word

I AM God who delivers you safely to the other side

YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS BY NOW!! (Mark 6:51-52)

> What a difference two words – I am, can make in our lives

Looking at the storm from a human perspective, we are helpless

"I am in the midst of the storm"

Looking at the storm from a divine perspective we have hope!

"**I AM**" in the midst of the storm

> Peter's request to Jesus comes alive when we understand the story. (Matthew 14:28)

The Lessons

1. Our perspective of this story totally shapes our response

2. This story reminds us of the importance of a right understanding about who God is.

3. When we know God and confidently trust in Him and His care, our response to the storms of life is unique.
(Matthew 8:23-27)