

Text: Matthew 8:23-27

Meaning: Jesus reassured the disciples by calming the storm

Big Idea: Jesus is the Greatest of All Time

Objective: I want the hearers to trust in Christ's greatness

Theme: Jesus is the Greatest

The GREATEST OF ALL TIME

Quarterback of All Time – Tom Brady, Joe Montana, Terry Bradshaw

Basketball Player of All Time – Michael Jordan or LeBron James

Greatest Candy Bar – Snickers, Milky Way, 3 Musketeers, ZERO

President of All-Time

Abraham Lincoln is mostly regarded as the greatest president for his leadership during the Civil War and the abolition of slavery. His main competitors are **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, for leading the country out of the Great Depression and during World War II; and Founding Father and first president **George Washington**, for setting several enduring and important precedents for the office of the presidency, including the peaceful transition of power.

When we think about greatness in our culture we think about someone's accomplishments over time. In fact, some of the people we say are the greatest have or had an unspeakable lack of character.

What we call GREAT, in some cases, God calls HORRIBLE.

Jesus defined greatness for us.

THE GREATEST AMONG YOU WILL BE YOUR SERVANT.

IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN RECEIVE

Beattitudes – Matthew 5 – Blessed are the MEEK, the POOR IN SPIRIT, the PEACEMAKERS, those WHO MOURN

In this series we are going to look at what living a life of true greatness is all about. If all I live for is accomplishments, accolades, money, possessions, trophies, that next promotion, that next house, that new car, that next vacation – MY LIFE IS INCREDIBLY INSIGNIFICANT

IF I LEVERAGE ALL THAT FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL – NOW IT ALL TAKES ON ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE!

HOW TO BE GREAT!

THE 3 GREATS (IN MATTHEW)

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT – Matthew 22 – LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE

THE GREAT COMPASSION – MATTHEW 25 – SERVE THE LEAST OF THESE

THE GREAT COMMISSION – MATTHEW 28 – GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Today – we start with the Greatest of All Time – The Lord Jesus Christ Himself!

The key to living a life of greatness is actually to understand I am not great, JESUS IS!

AND THAT IS TRUE GREATNESS – WHETHER I AM KNOWN BY THE WORLD OR UNKNOWN BY THE WORLD – GREATNESS IS BEING KNOWN BY GOD AND MAKING HIM KNOWN.

Today we start in Matthew chapter 8 where Jesus is with the disciples in a boat on the Sea of Galilee when all of a sudden a raging storm blows in and threatens to capsize the boat – and what happens next is epic!

READ MATTHEW 8:23-27

1. **CHRIST IS THE GREATEST AT LEADING OUR LIVES**

Jesus is the one who put the disciples on the sea of Galilee. Keep in mind, Jesus pulled them from a crowd to place them on stormy seas.

There is a purpose in everything!

The disciples were probably angry that Jesus was not contributing to the bailing effort or exercising his power to help save their lives. To these men **of little faith** (8:26), Jesus was at least another pair of hands to help man the bailing buckets. The fact that they were so amazed in 8:27 suggests that their plea to **save us** (8:25) meant they were looking for his participation and possibly his leadership in averting the crisis. But they apparently did not expect him to exercise such incredible supernatural power.¹

HOW OFTEN DO WE GET UPSET BECAUSE CHRIST IS NOT MEETING OUR EXPECTATIONS?
WHO AM I TO TELL JESUS HOW TO CAPTAIN THE SHIP?

ALL IS WELL

Robert Louis Stevenson tells of a storm that caught a vessel off a rocky coast and threatened to drive it and its passengers to destruction. In the midst of the terror, one daring man, contrary to orders, went to the deck, made a dangerous passage to the pilot house and saw the steerman, at his post holding the wheel unwaveringly, and inch by inch, turning the ship out, once more, to sea. The pilot saw the watcher and smiled. Then, the daring passenger went below and gave out a note of cheer: "I have seen the face of the pilot, and he smiled. All is well."

¹ Stuart K. Weber, [Matthew](#), vol. 1, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2000), 119–120.

3 Statements:

Some lessons are only learned IN THE STORM

Jesus never leaves you in the boat ALONE

Don't question in the STORM what Jesus called you to on the SHORE

2. **CHRIST IS THE GREATEST AT CALMING OUR STORMS**

Throughout the Old Testament we have multiple examples of God having authority over the waters and over storms.

NOAH – God told Noah to build an ark because a massive storm was coming. God literally rained down judgment on the earth, but all those in the ark were saved. So too, Jesus is the ark, when we trust in Him we are saved!

MOSES – the children of Israel were trapped at the Red Sea by that mean old Pharaoh and his army. Water was all around them, and the enemy was at their back. Then the Lord told Moses to stretch out his hands, and a hurricane force wind blew across that water and parted the sea and the people walked through on dry ground.

JOSHUA – God told Joshua and the people to cross the Jordan River and conquer the promised land. The moment the feet of those priests carrying to ark of God hit the water of that swollen rushing river the waters were damned up in a heap and the children of Israel crossed over on dry ground.

JONAH – was running from God and boarded that ship to Tarshish, the opposite end of the known world. But God met Jonah right there on the Mediterranean with his grace, caused the sea to rage, and Jonah got tossed out into the water. But the Lord sent that great fish to swallow him up, and in that he was saved and set back on the path to fulfill God's call on His life.

CHURCH – WE SERVE A GOD WHO MADE NATURE AND CONTROLS NATURE. THE SAME GOD WHO CAN CONTROL NATURAL STORMS CAN CONTROL OUR STORMS.

Storms are INEVITABLE

Whether because of our own sins, or simply for God's sanctifying purpose, STORMS WILL COME.

Even Saints of God face storms. The disciples are exactly where Jesus told them to be, and THEY SAIL RIGHT INTO A STORM.

Just because you are in a storm doesn't mean you have sinned.

Storms are INVALUABLE

The greatest lessons we learn in life come through storms. *WHILE THE STORM WAS STILL RAGING JESUS CORRECTED THEIR FAITH. THERE IS A LESSON IN THE STORM IF YOU WILL LISTEN TO THE MASTER.*

You can't win SPIRITUAL BATTLES by PHYSICAL MEANS. If there are battles you are facing that you just can't seem to win it is because they are spiritual battles. You're fighting on the wrong battlefield. You need to fight in prayer and praise.

When you're week's been hard – Pray Hard! Come into Church and worship Hard!

This momentary light affliction is producing in us an eternal weight of glory!

IN SCHOOL WE LEARNED LESSONS TO TAKE TESTS. IN LIFE WE GO THROUGH TESTS TO LEARN LESSONS. WHAT IS THE LORD TRYING TO TEACH YOU IN THIS TEST?

Remember there is no TESTIMONY without a TEST.

Storms are never FINAL

WHAT OR WHO DO YOU TURN TO IN THE STRUGGLE? DRUGS, ALCOHOL, PORNOGRAPHY? JUST LIVE WEEKEND TO WEEKEND, VACATION TO VACATION?

James 1:2-4

² Count it all joy, my brothers,^(b) when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

3. CHRIST IS THE GREATEST OF ALL TIME

Hebrews 1:3-4

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Revelation 1:12-18

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."