

**WHEN THE STORM HITS:
FINDING FAITH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CHAOS
ROCKY RIVER CHURCH – SNOW DAY – JANUARY 25, 2026
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The BIG IDEA:

Through this miracle Jesus proved that He is in control of the weather – He has control over storms – all storms – including the storms we face in life. When you learn to trust Jesus and that He is in control – He will replace your fears with His faith. And even if that doesn't calm your storm – it will calm you.

Matthew 8:23-27 (NIV)

²³ Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!”

²⁶ He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

FOUR THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE’S STORMS:

#1. Storms are opportunities to _____.

“Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him.” -Matthew 8:23

“You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” -Matthew 8:26a

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” -James 1:2-3

#2. Storms are _____.

“Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat.” -Matthew 8:24

#3. Storms expose _____.

“The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, ‘Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!’” **-Matthew 8:25**

#4. Jesus has authority over _____.

“Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.” **-Matthew 8:26b**

“The men were amazed and asked, ‘What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!’”
-Matthew 8:27

THREE STEPS TO TAKE WHEN YOU FACE A STORM:

(1) Stay _____.

(2) Talk to Jesus _____.

(3) Anchor your life in _____.

* All Scripture texts (unless otherwise noted) are from the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible.

Table Talk (Sermon Discussion Guide):

1. What stood out to you most from the story of Jesus calming the storm in Matthew 8:23–27?
2. What are some “storms” people face in life today (emotional, relational, financial, spiritual)? Which ones feel most real to you right now?
3. Why do you think the disciples were so afraid even though Jesus was in the boat with them?
4. How do storms tend to reveal what we trust or fear the most?
5. What does it look like practically to choose faith over fear when life feels out of control?
6. How can support one another through current storms this week?

