

The Storm That Reminds
Storm Series - Part 4
Sermon Notes for August 23, 2026

SERMON CONTENT

1. Coming to the End of the Storm

Storms remind us that God is with us now. That He's always been with us, and He always will be.

- Week 1 – The Storm That Reveals (Mark 4): storms don't create character, they reveal it.
- Week 2 – The Storm That Refines (James 1, Daniel 3): God uses storms to produce something in us, like fire refines gold.
- Week 3 – The Storm That Redirects (Jonah, Saul): sometimes a storm turns us back onto God's intended road.
- Week 4 – The Storm That Reminds: God is with us now, He always has been, and the storm will not last forever.

2. Jesus Comes INTO the Storm, Not Just After It

His presence, not the absence of the wind and waves, is the source of peace.

In Mark 4, Jesus was already in the boat before the storm began. In Matthew 14, He came to the disciples in the middle of the storm, walking on the water. Either way, Jesus does not wait for the storm to end before showing up. His presence — not the absence of wind and waves — is the source of our peace.

Reflect: Where do you need to remember Jesus is already present in your storm?

3. What You Focus on Determines Whether You Sink or Stand

When we fix our gaze on Jesus, we can walk through impossible places. When we let the circumstance dominate our vision, we start to go under — even in the middle of a miracle.

Peter walked on water as long as his eyes were on Jesus (Matthew 14:28-31). The moment he focused on the wind, he began to sink. Nothing about the storm changed — only where he was looking. When he cried out, 'Lord, save me,' Jesus immediately reached out and caught him. He didn't lecture Peter first — He rescued him.

Reflect: What 'wave' has been capturing your focus lately instead of Jesus?

4. The Storm Gives You a Story of God's Faithfulness

That's what a proven, tested faith does. It becomes something you can hand down to the next generation, to the person next to you in the waiting room, to your own kids when their storm comes.

Years after nearly drowning, Peter wrote to persecuted believers: trials prove the genuineness of faith, like fire proves gold (1 Peter 1:6-7). Peter couldn't have written that without first sinking and being caught. Your storm isn't disqualifying your faith — it may be proving it, and producing

a testimony you'll one day hand to someone else who is drowning.

5. Every Storm Has an Expiration Date

Grief has an expiration date. Suffering has an expiration date. Sickness, loss, fear, anxiety — they are all temporary residents in a story that is heading towards a permanent home where none of them are allowed to live anymore.

Revelation 21:1-5 gives us a vision of a new heaven and new earth where 'there was no longer any sea' — no more chaos, tears, death, or pain. Every storm — grief, sickness, fear, loss — is a temporary resident in a story heading toward a permanent, storm-free home. The storm is real, but it is not the last word.

6. Bottom Line

The story may not always end when we want it to. But it will end. And Jesus will never leave us before it does.

Matthew 28:20 — 'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *For personal reflection or group discussion*

1. Think back over this four-week series (Reveals, Refines, Redirects, Reminds). Which word describes what a current or recent storm has done in your life?
2. Jesus was in the boat before the storm, and walked to the disciples during the storm. How does knowing Jesus doesn't wait for the storm to end change the way you pray in hard seasons?
3. Peter began to sink the moment he looked at the wind instead of Jesus. What are the 'waves' that most often steal your focus, and what practically helps you keep your eyes on Jesus instead?
4. Peter's storm became his testimony, later encouraging persecuted believers. Has a past trial ever become something you could offer to encourage someone else? What happened?
5. Revelation 21 promises a day with 'no longer any sea' — no more storms. How does that future hope change the way you endure a present trial?

KEY TAKEAWAYS: *Main points to remember and apply*

1. Jesus does not wait for the storm to end to show up — He comes into the storm with us. 2. What you focus on determines whether you sink or stand; keep your eyes on Jesus, not the wave.
3. Tested faith becomes a testimony you can hand to someone else who is drowning. 4. Every storm has an expiration date — it is real, but it is not the last word. 5. Jesus promised to be with

us always, to the very end of the age — not just to the beginning or middle of our storm.