

Surviving the Storm

Sermon Title: **Surviving the Storm**

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Speaker: **Nathan Durham**

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Nathan Durham: God, never leaves you even when you're in a storm.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is the sermon titled, "Surviving the Storm" by Nathan Durham. This sermon is number 6545.

(Music Playing: 00:00:15 - 00:00:26)

Female: And now for Surviving the Storm.

Nathan Durham: Welcome to Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the word. Amen, amen. I want to invite your attention tonight to Mark's Gospel Chapter 4 Verses 35 through 41. Mark's Gospel Chapter 4 Verses 35 through 41. You find these words, "And the same day, when the even was come, he said unto them, let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship and there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow and they awake him, and say unto him, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, "Peace, be still." And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Thank you tonight for the time that we have to share. I want to talk from this simple thought, surviving the storm. Webster defines the storm as a disturbance of the atmosphere marked by wind and usually by rain, snow sleet, thunder and lightning. Some storms can be very devastating whereas some may be minor but others can be very devastating. Some storms have been so devastating that we will always remember those storms.

For instance, Hurricane Ike of 2008 Category 4 hurricane that affected Texas, Louisiana and mid-western United States. Hurricane Katrina of 2005 Category 5 hurricane that affected the United States Gulf Coast. It actually affected the entire country whether directly or indirectly. It is one of the most deadliest and most destructive hurricanes in the history of our country. But there are some storms that differ from those types of storms.

There are some storms that Ken Cook and Glenn Burns can't forecast. There are some storms that Doppler radar can't detect.

Let me submit to you brothers and sisters that if you live long enough at one point or another in your life, you've got to deal with the storm. It is not because you are atheist, it is not always because of a lack of faith. You can love God with all of your heart and at one point or another, you've got to deal with the reality of a storm. Let me submit to you that there are three types of storms. There are storms of testing like that of Job. Then there's storms of correcting like that of Jonah. But then there are storms of perfecting like the disciples.

See, Job's storm thought him something about resources, whereas Job's storm thought him about resources. Jonah's storm thought him about remorse. But whereas Job's storm thought him about resource but he had to learn how to hold on to the source even when there were no resources and whereas Jonah had to learn remorse because God told him to go to Nineveh. Now, the disciples have to learn something about recourse. Where do you turn to when you're dealing with something that is bigger than you? I come to tell you that regardless of where you find yourself in life, regardless of what type of storm you're going through I come to tell you, listen here.

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You're going to survive that storm. When you look at this particular text, this particular passage, it is interesting because the text doesn't start off talking about a storm. In fact, Chapter 4 doesn't commence talking about a storm. A matter of fact, Chapter 4 doesn't start by being on the sea but Chapter 4 starts at the shore. It is interesting because Jesus starts the chapter of by teaching on the shore preparing them for the sea. I think I ought to tell you it is imperative that whatever you learn on the shore that you would apply it on the sea you still don't get it. On the shore is where you get your teaching but on the sea is where you get your testing.

On the shore is where you get your word but, on the sea, where you get your water, waves and your wind. On the shore the teacher is speaking but on the sea the teacher is sleeping. It is important that you pay attention on the shore because you're going to need it on the sea. Too many people just shout on shore

but you got to be able to shout when you're out on the sea because you understand that God never leaves you even when you're in a storm.

I looked at this particular passage and it made me shout because the first thing that I saw an invitation. Then I looked a little bit longer not only did I see an invitation but then I saw a separation. I looked a little bit longer not only did I see a separation but then I saw devastation. I looked a little bit longer but not only that I see devastation but then I saw relaxation. I looked a little bit longer and not only that I see relaxation but then I saw communication. I looked a little bit longer not only did I see communication but then I saw a demonstration.

Here it is. The disciples are invited by Jesus, "Let us go to the other side." That's an invitation. But then they left some other little ships, that's a separation, only to find themselves in the middle of a storm, that's devastation. They go looking for Jesus, that's communication. But Jesus is asleep on a pillow, that's relaxation. They wake him up he speaks to the storm, that's a demonstration. That's how good God is. I feel like preaching up in here.

When you look at this particular passage when you get to the storm, I want you to notice something very interesting. I want you to notice something very interesting because the text says that Jesus invited them to go to the other side. The first thing you need to understand brothers and sisters is that there's nothing that catches God off guard. God always have a reason for whatever he tells you to do. God always have a reason when he tells you to do something even if it doesn't make sense is still makes sense. God is so awesome he doesn't always tell you to do what you want to do because God understand that his plan is bigger than ours.

Jesus tells them, "Let us go to the other side and they left other little ships." I love that because here it is, "they were obedient to Jesus the Christ." Jesus says, "Let us go over to the other side" and when they started off everything was conducive to smooth sailing. But that's how it is in life. Things start off conducive to smooth sailing, but only define yourself in the midst of a storm. That's how storms take place. The don't always show signs of a storm. Here it is you start it off. The marriage was like "Little

House on the Prairie” but then they wind it up like “Nightmare on Elm Street.”

When you first saw her, she looked like Halle Berry. You married her but now the marriage is torn up she no longer reminds you of Halle Berry now she reminds you of Chuck Berry. You thought you had to have him because he was so handsome, he looked like Billy Dee from the movie. But you’ve been with him so long now you don’t like him anymore. He no longer looks like Billy Dee but he looks like Willy B. down the street.

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Starts of smooth but winds up in a storm. The disciples find themselves not only being obedient to what Jesus had told them to do but now they find themselves in a storm. What do you do, when you had been obedient to him, now you are in a storm? Say what you want but that’s how it is in life. When you try your best to be obedient to the word of God, trying to do what God tells you to do and find yourself in a storm. Why is it that Sister Jessie is not going through what you’re go through and she don’t even love God? Why is it the same as though the saints always suffer? Same as though the wicked always win.

I’ve tried to do what Jesus told me to do but now I’m on a storm, I feel like preaching up in here. What do you do when you are obedient to him but now, you’re in a storm? The first thing, number one, you must pay attention to the severity of your storm. There in a storm and it was important that they saw how severe the storm was. They were in a severe storm the water and the waives now begin to beat into the boat. They’re in a severe storm, now the water and waves begin to come into the ship. They’re in a bad storm. The storm now has embraced their ship. Some storms will embrace your ship. They will embrace your relationship. They would embrace your church membership. They would embrace your courtships. Storms have a way of embracing our ships but they’re in a severe storm. Don’t let nobody tell you how severe your storm is.

There are some people who would try to tell you all it ain’t nothing. It’s nothing as long as you’re not going through it. And then when they look at you, they have the audacity to say that you shouldn’t praise God like you do but they don’t know what you’ve been through. They don’t understand your praise was

what kept you together. They don't understand you have to praise God because your praise is what gave you strength. Is there anybody up in here ever had to praise God and you praise him in spite of what you are going through. And people thought you had it all together but they didn't know the mud you have to drag yourself to just to get the way you are. People see your glory but they don't know your story. They see the smile on your face but they don't know the storm you're going through. He wanted them to see the severity of the storm but not only a severe storm but then also a Sovereign Savior, there in the storm.

And I'm just glad that Matthew didn't look for Mark. I'm glad that Mark didn't talk about Luke. I'm glad that John didn't post Facebook about Andrew. Why didn't they talk about one another? Because they were all in the same boat. All of us will go through something. There's no need of talking down on other people. When they go through, don't look down on anybody unless you're looking down long enough to pick them up. All of us we have to deal with the reality of a storm.

They're in a severe storm but watch this, you need to see the Sovereign Savior because now they're looking for Jesus. Jesus is in the hand part of sleep on a pillow. This shows the sovereignty of Christ. He's asleep not just sleep but the gospel says, "He's asleep on a pillow." Now I know what it's like to fall asleep. I know what it's like to get sleep and there have been times in which I was driving down the highways and I have to roll down my window to keep from falling asleep. There were times in which I was watching T.V. and I wanted to watch a movie but the T.V. winded up watching me. But whenever you take time to grab a pillow, that's a planned sleep.

Jesus is asleep on a pillow which means that Jesus knew the storm was coming before the storm came. If you don't shout on anything else, you ought to thank God that there is nothing that will happen that will come into your life that catches Jesus by surprise. Sometimes Jesus is asleep on a pillow so that you may wake him up. I love that because there have been times in my life when Jesus was the one, I had to call on because he was all I had. Sometimes he will allow you to go into some situations where got to call his name and I just love that about Jesus. He wants us to call his name. How many of you know you could talk to him when friends turn their backs on you? You could talk to

him when your friends are nowhere to be found. I'm just glad that he says, "Call my name."

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They were looking for Jesus. He's asleep now on a pillow but they go and wake him up and they said to him, "Master, carest not that we perish and a whole lot of us whether we want to be honest or not I know we are afraid that it would take away for our credibility of being super saved. We want people to believe where Jesus Jr., we're always talking in tongue. But that tides in which you and I want to know Jesus carest thou not that we're going through. Jesus carest thou not that my children are in trouble. Jesus carest thou not because I continue to borrow from Peter to pay Paul. Carest thou not that my supervisor is always acting crazy. Carest thou not that my children are going astray." They want to know that Jesus care but I'm just glad that he cares for us. That you got to cast your cares upon him because he does care. But not only should you see a severe storm, a sovereign savior.

Finally, I want you to see surviving saints. They're in the storm, they wake him up. Jesus now before he speaks to the storm, he first speaks to them. Sometime before he deals with our situation, he first has to deal with us. Jesus has to fix us before he fixes our situation. See, he doesn't want to put you in a Promise Land predicament if you still have an Egyptian mentality. Sometimes he has to prepare you for the blessing. He wants to bring you out maybe before he brings you out at first got to deal with you.

Matter of fact, it wasn't even about the trouble anyway. I wanted your attention. I wanted you to call me. I wanted you to rely on me. I wanted you to know that you could not make it without me. I want to know is there anybody up in here ever been in a situation where couldn't nobody help you but God. Your big mama couldn't help you; your mama couldn't help you; couldn't nobody help you but God. Oh, thank you Jesus. I'm just glad God will bring you out and I wanted to know God, "Why do you allow us to be in situation? Why can't nobody help us but you?" He said, "So, you can give nobody else the glory. You have to say if it wasn't for the Lord that was on my side where will I be? Whatever I know he thought me where I am. He brought and where I'm going, he's going to take me.

Surviving saints, he speaks now to the storm and says, "Peace be still." You need to catch that one. He said "Peace be still." Jesus is intelligent he uses complete sentences. So, who is peace? Let me submit to you there are some things that we see as just storms and Jesus says no it's peace. Jesus turns it around now. The very thing that hurt you has helped you. There are things that has burden you or turned around and bless you. Sometime your healing has to come from your hurt.

I love that about God because He has a way of turning things around. I have some witnesses right here tonight who knows he will turn that thing around what the devil meant for bad, God meant for you good. He will turn it around in the same way they laughed at you when your car got repo. They got to see you when you drive up in your brand-new car. The same people that bought newspaper to see your name in the foreclosure section are going to be the same one that see you when your cup is running over. Sometimes he has to take something from you just to give something to you. Come to tell you you're going to survive that storm. If Jesus is on board, if you're on board with him, you're going to survive that storm.

Okay, when I was young, two of my favorite shows that will come on a Saturday night. The first one was called, "Love Boat." I couldn't wait for Love Boat to go off so that I can then watch "Fantasy Island." Interesting enough about the Love Boat is that it consisted of a captain, other crew members and then guess who would be taken to cruise. There would always be some kind of issue. Always be some kind of issue on the boat but yet by the time it ended, everything was good and somebody was deep in love. That's how it is when you're on the boat with Jesus. He would allow you to go through some issue but I'm going to tell you when you come out --

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--you're even more in love with him that you have ever been in your life. When you lean on and tell somebody he's bringing you out right now. He's causing you to fall more in love with him. He wants you to know it wasn't about the storm anyway it was about your relationship whether he just causing you to fall deeper in love. And so, I want to tell you in closing what do you do then until my change come? What will I do in the process of time? Keep talking to Jesus and keep pushing, keep moving forward.

Keep praying but keep moving forward. Don't stop, you've come too far to stop but keep praying and keep moving forward.

One Sunday, an old man told his daughter, "Let's take a ride. I want you to drive Conyers. They left Atlanta Georgia. Before they can get to Lithonia, they were in a bad storm and she said, "Dad, should I pull over?" He said, "No baby, keep going and I'm going to keep praying. They drove a little farther, cars pulled over. She said? Should I pull over now? He said, "No, keep moving forward and I'll keep praying."

By the time they made it to Conyers, now the sun was out, rain stopped. He said, "Stop the car." "Stop now?" "Yes, meet me in the back of the car. I want you to look back towards Atlanta." It's still raining back there, it's still dark back there. But because we kept praying, because we kept moving, God has allowed us to come out of our storm. I want to tell you tonight that same God of ours doesn't want you to give up, he doesn't want you to give out in the storm. Keep praying, keep moving forward.

Will you bow your heads and close eyes with me tonight? Father God in Jesus' name, we honor you. We reverence you God. Lord you're sovereign. The Earth is yours, the fullness thereof. David dwell therein. Lord thank you for being God and Lord I ask right now that you please have mercy upon your children all over this land. Lord have mercy upon your children.

Somebody tonight God is going through a marital storm. Touch right now what you've joined together let no man put asunder. Lord I pray upon parents' tonight touch right now, give strength that only you can give. I pray for single parents tonight. Give strength tonight. We need you God. Those who are dealing with depression, anxiety. Let the mind that was in your son Jesus be also in us. We need you on tonight. Each and everyone on the sound of my voice, those who are watching, I pray, God you bless every family tonight in the mighty name of Jesus and Lord, we thank you in advance. We give you glory now in the name of Jesus. Amen, amen, God bless you tonight. Thank you so much.

Female:

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