



**Following Jesus During  
Uncertain Times!  
Matthew 8:23-24**

# We Are Living During Uncertain Times In Our Lives!

- The Pandemic continues, and COVID 19 is still taking lives
- Mass shootings seem to be an “every-month occurrence!”
- Politicians talk about, “defunding the Police”(a misnomer).
- Food shortages, and rising inflation
- Question for the day: How much is a gallon of gas this week?
- Men competing in women’s sports
- The super-powerful nation of Russia invades Ukraine, who the U.S. supplies with weapons, to fight the Russian invasion

***Not to Mention, the Ongoing Problems in Our  
Own Personal Lives Right Now!***

***(Job, Marriage, Illnesses, Money, Parenting, Depression)***

# Observations

- I continue to be amazed at the “relevancy of the Bible,” God’s Holy Word
- That a Book written so long ago can address our needs today
- But what God requires of me is what He requires of every man and every woman throughout the ages:

## Faith in Him

*“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6*

***Faith Even During Uncertain Times!***

# What Had Jesus Already Done in This Chapter?

- He had cured a man's leprosy, Matthew 8:1-4
- He had healed a Centurion's servant, who was paralyzed, and writhing in pain, without seeing him or laying hands on him, Matthew 8:5-13
- He had healed Peter's mother-in-law, Matthew 8:14
- He had cured those who were, "demon-possessed," and more people who were sick, fulfilling a prophecy, Matthew 8:16-17; Isaiah 53:4

*"He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases."*

- What Matthew is doing for the reader is putting Jesus on display (His Power, His Dominion, He addresses every need)
- Jesus is not limited by time, space, physical presence, problem or diagnoses, natural history, number of people he'd already seen

## So, Having Accomplished All of These Things What Happens In Today's Lesson?

- Jesus and the disciples get into a boat, head across the Sea of Galilee, and a massive (furious) storm catches up with them
- Being professional fisherman (how they made their living), they had seen storms on the waters before; but this one was so bad that the waters from the Sea were overwhelming the boat.
- Remember, in this story, we are talking about faithful disciples. They hadn't sinned to cause this predicament; but they were now facing the consequences of following Jesus
- They were right there with Jesus when this happened to them, doing what Jesus wanted them to do
- He had ordered them to go to the other side, and they said O.K.!

## So, What Do We Learn?

- Following Jesus Christ doesn't exempt us from storms (in fact, they might come upon you because that's what you're doing)

*“In fact, everyone who wants to live a Godly life in Christ will be persecuted.” (work, home, family, friends) 2 Timothy 3:12*

- Look at what Jesus says in the story just before this one, verses 19,20:

*“Then a teacher of the law came to Him and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go. Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.”*

- Jesus is saying that you may have to choose between your personal comforts and following Jesus (Ex. more money and less worship time versus more worship and less money)

# What Can Satan Do With Storms in Your Life?

**He can get your mind (focus) off of Jesus!**

*"I thought that when I became a Christian all the storms in my life would go away."*

*"I thought that when I became a Christian I wouldn't have cancer, diabetes, vision problems, a stroke, heart disease, or if I had them, it wouldn't be for long"*

*"I thought that when I became a Christian my marriage would flourish"*

*"I thought that since my children were raised in the church, that they would remain in the church; and I'd just pass my 'spiritual baton' to them!"*

As Christians This Is Indeed What We Might Say During Our Uncertain Times!

***“I believe in Jesus to a Point ... But”***

***“I know Jesus can heal sickness ... But”***

***“I know that Jesus can deliver me from my sins ... But”***

***“I know that Jesus is in control of my finances ... But”***

***“I know that Jesus is in control of my future ... But”***

***But What?***

***“But I’ve got to help Jesus make things happen for me!”***

***But! That’s When We Mess Up!***

***Jeremiah 10:23 “the way of man is not in himself”***



# During These Uncertain Times Fewer People in the U.S. See the Bible as the Literal Word of God!

- A most recent Gallup Poll showed that a record-low 20% of Americans now believe that the Bible is the Literal Word of God (24% in 2017 when the question was asked before)
- A 2021 survey found that millennials in the U.S. are far less likely to believe in God than older generations and instead are opting for other beliefs “such as horoscopes”

*“If the unaffiliated were a religion, they’d be the largest religion in the U.S.” Dr. Elizabeth Drescher, professor of religious studies, Santa Clara University*

- Many people today have a false sense of self-reliance (pride)

*People are basically saying, “I don’t need to ask God for help. Besides, I might not like His answer! (e.g., the abortion question, Jeremiah 1:5)”*

Thank God That His Disciples Knew What to Do When Their Storm Hit! Matthew 8:25

## **They Went To Jesus (woke Him up)!**

- Notice that Jesus didn't complain about "being awakened"
- That tells me that He wants to hear our concerns
- Notice in the text, Jesus had already given the command (orders) to go to the other side, verse 18
- What that means is that it was His Will for them; and they were following His will even when the storm came up
- The question to the child of God then becomes, *"If it is His will, why are you so afraid?"* which is what he asked in verse 26

# What Does Jesus Do?

- He addresses their lack of faith, ***“You of little faith”*** verse 26
- Then He addresses their storm, ***“He got up and rebuked the winds and waves, and it was completely calm.”*** verse 26
- Question: Isn't Jesus asking us the same question? **“Why are you so afraid during these uncertain times?”** You and I are in Matthew 8!

**“You Know Who I am!”**

**“You know What I can Do!”**

**“You Know My Relationship With You!”**

**“You Know I Want a Personal Involvement in Your Life!”**

- **“If I will address the needs of my disciples in Matthew 8, during their Uncertain Time, I will address yours too!”**

## What Do I Need to Do?

- **Humble Myself, Swallow My Pride 1 Peter 5:6, *“Humble yourself under the mighty hand....”***
- **Pray, Luke 18:1, Philippians 4:6 *“...men ought always....”* *“Be anxious for nothing...”***
- **Repent, change your ways, Acts 17:30, *“And the times of this Ignorance....”***
- **Seek God’s face, Isaiah 55:6-7, *“Seek the Lord while He may be found and call upon him while he is near....”***



# The Plan of Salvation

**Hear the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Believe the Gospel**

**Acts 15:7**

**Repent of Sins**

**Acts 17:30**

**Confess Christ**

**Acts 8:37**

**Be Baptized**

**Acts 8:38**

