



5 Daily Devotionals (From August 2nd Sermon)

5-Day Devotional: Trusting the One Who Holds the Storm

Day 1 – When the Storm Hits

Key Verse:

"Lord, save us! We are perishing!" — Matthew 8:25

Storms come in many forms. Sometimes they arrive without warning. Other times we can see them gathering on the horizon—a difficult diagnosis, financial uncertainty, broken relationships, or anxiety about the future. Like the disciples, we often begin by relying on our own strength. We try harder, plan better, and work longer. But eventually we reach the point where we realize we cannot fix everything.

That moment of helplessness is often where faith begins to grow.

The disciples did the right thing: they went to Jesus. They didn't understand everything He could do yet, but they believed He was their only hope. Prayer is always an act of faith because it confesses that our help comes from outside ourselves.

Whatever storm you're facing today, remember this: Jesus is already in the boat. He has not abandoned you. He knows the waves, He sees your fear, and He invites you to bring every burden to Him. His presence does not always remove the storm immediately, but His promises never fail.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, when fear begins to overwhelm me, remind me to run to You first. Strengthen my faith, calm my anxious heart, and help me trust Your care even before I see the answer. Amen.

Day 2 – Trust Brings Peace

Key Verse:

"Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" — Matthew 8:26

The disciples looked at the waves and panicked. Jesus looked at the same waves and slept peacefully.

The difference wasn't the size of the storm. It was the depth of trust.

Fear grows when we believe everything depends on us. Peace grows when we remember everything ultimately rests in God's hands. That doesn't mean life becomes easy or that questions disappear. It means we know the One who holds our future.

Throughout Scripture, God repeatedly calls His people not simply to believe that He exists, but to trust His promises. Christ has already proven His love by giving Himself on the cross and rising again. If He has secured your eternal future, He will also provide what you need for today.

When anxious thoughts begin to multiply, return to His promises. Read His Word. Pray honestly. Remember His faithfulness in the past. Trust is not pretending the storm isn't real; it is believing Christ is greater than the storm.

Prayer:

Father, teach me to trust You more deeply. Replace my fear with confidence in Your promises, and give me the peace that only Christ can provide. Amen.

Day 3 – Don't Put Jesus in a Box

Key Verse:

"What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" — Matthew 8:27

The disciples had already seen Jesus teach with authority and heal diseases. But calming the sea revealed something even greater. Creation itself obeyed His voice.

Every miracle in the Gospels expands our understanding of who Jesus is. He is not merely a wise teacher or an inspiring example. He is the eternal Son of God, Lord over sickness, nature, evil, death, and sin.

Sometimes we quietly place limits on what we expect Him to do. We trust Him with eternity but not today's problems. We believe He forgives sins but wonder if He can carry our burdens. We pray small prayers because we've forgotten how great our Savior truly is.

The invitation is not to have confidence in ourselves or even in the strength of our faith. Our confidence rests in Christ Himself. He is able to accomplish far more than we can imagine, always according to His perfect wisdom and loving will.

Because Jesus is bigger than our fears, we can entrust every part of life to Him.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, forgive me for limiting You in my thinking. Help me remember that nothing is beyond Your power or Your care. Teach me to trust You with every part of my life. Amen.

Day 4 – Your Greatest Need

Key Verse:

"Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." — Matthew 9:2

The friends carried a paralyzed man to Jesus hoping for physical healing. Instead, Jesus first addressed something even more important: his forgiveness.

That may seem surprising until we remember our greatest problem is not physical suffering but separation from God because of sin. Before Jesus healed the man's body, He healed his relationship with the Father.

The same is true for us. We often ask God to remove difficult circumstances, and He certainly invites those prayers. Yet His greatest gift has already been given through Christ's death and resurrection: the complete forgiveness of sins.

Guilt has a way of clinging to us. We replay old failures, wonder if we've done enough, or question whether God really forgives us. But Jesus' word is stronger than our feelings. When He declares your sins forgiven for His sake, they truly are forgiven.

Because Christ has carried your sin to the cross, you are free to leave your past in His hands and walk forward in hope.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for forgiving all my sins through Your sacrifice. Help me live in the freedom You have given instead of returning to guilt and shame. Amen.

Day 5 – Compassion Changes Everything

Key Verse:

"He had compassion on them." (See Matthew 8–9)

Again and again, Jesus met people everyone else avoided. Lepers. Gentiles. The demon-possessed. The sick. The forgotten. The guilty. Every encounter revealed the same heart: compassion.

No one was beyond His mercy.

That truth still stands today. There is no person whose story is too broken, whose past is too dark, or whose failures are too great for Christ's grace. His invitation to repentance and forgiveness is for all who come to Him.

As recipients of that mercy, we are called to reflect His heart. We meet hurting people every day—neighbors, coworkers, family members, and strangers carrying burdens we cannot see. Rather than judging from a distance, Christ calls us to love, serve, encourage, and speak His hope.

The more we understand the compassion Jesus has shown us, the more naturally His compassion begins to overflow through us.

May our lives point others to the Savior who welcomes sinners, forgives freely, calms fearful hearts, and gives eternal hope.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for Your compassion toward me. Fill my heart with Your love so I may see others as You do and gladly share the hope of Your forgiveness and salvation. Amen.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Trusting Jesus Through the Storm

Matthew 8:23–9:8

Opening Question

What is one situation in your life where you felt completely out of control? Looking back, how did you see God at work—or what did you learn through it?

Key Scripture

Matthew 8:26

"And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?' Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm."

Main Idea

Life brings storms—illness, anxiety, broken relationships, financial struggles, guilt, and fear. The disciples discovered that the greatest source of peace wasn't the absence of a storm but the presence of Jesus. Throughout Matthew 8–9, Jesus reveals that He has authority over nature, demons, sickness, sin, and every obstacle that stands before us. He calls His people to trust Him because He is both compassionate and all-powerful. When He forgives our sins, He gives us lasting peace, and when He walks with us through life's storms, He promises never to abandon us.

Supporting Bible Verses

- **Psalms 46:1-3** — God is our refuge and strength in times of trouble.
- **Isaiah 41:10** — "Fear not, for I am with you."
- **Romans 8:28** — God works all things together for the good of those who love Him.
- **Philippians 4:6-7** — God's peace guards our hearts through prayer.
- **John 14:27** — Jesus gives a peace the world cannot give.

- **1 Peter 5:7** — Cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you.
 - **1 John 1:9** — Christ faithfully forgives those who confess their sins.
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Discussion Questions

1. The disciples were experienced fishermen, yet they still became overwhelmed by the storm. Why do we often try to handle life's storms on our own before turning to God?
 2. Jesus asked, "*Why are you afraid?*" What does this reveal about the relationship between fear and trusting God?
 3. Think about a current "storm" in your life. What would it look like to trust Jesus with that situation instead of trying to control it yourself?
 4. The sermon emphasized that Jesus cannot be put into a "box." In what ways do we sometimes limit what we believe Jesus can do?
 5. When Jesus healed the paralyzed man, He first forgave his sins before healing his body (Matthew 9:1-8). Why do you think forgiveness was the man's greatest need?
 6. How does knowing that your sins are completely forgiven through Christ change the way you view your past and face your future?
 7. What practical step can you take this week to grow in trusting Jesus more fully?
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Take It Home

This week, identify one specific worry, fear, or burden you've been carrying. Each day, intentionally bring it before the Lord in prayer. When anxiety returns, remind yourself:

Jesus is with me. He has forgiven me. He is working for my good. I can trust Him.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for sending Your Son, who has authority over every storm, every fear, every sin, and every power of darkness. Thank You that through His death and resurrection we have the full forgiveness of our sins and the sure hope of eternal life.

When we become anxious or afraid, remind us that You are with us. Strengthen our faith to trust You even when we cannot see how You are working. Help us to rest in Your promises rather than our circumstances. Give us hearts that reflect Your compassion so we may point others to the hope found in Christ alone.

Keep us faithful this week, confident that nothing can separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.