

Jesus, A Comforter to the Distressed

Matthew 14:22-33

Halifax: 4 December 2005

Introduction:

For the past several weeks, I have been preaching regarding “What Jesus is among us.”

- I began with Psalm 48 from which I showed you that Jesus is the king of righteousness among us who establishes God’s city.
- Then in Matthew 13:53-58, we saw that He is
 - “An Offense to the Familiar” (who know Him only after the flesh as man and not as God).
 - Such persons are offended with Him!
 - “Who does He think He is to call me to entrust my soul entirely to Him! He is just a man”, they say.
- And then from Matthew 14:1-12, I showed you that He is:
 - “A Terror to the Impenitent”
 - What a hard way you make for yourself if you try to resist the Son of God!
 - Surely terror will overtake you and in the end consume you.
- And last week, I showed you from Matthew 14:13-21 that He is:
 - “A Provider to the Hungry”
 - What rich provision He has for those who hunger after His grace and salvation!
 - You will never hunger if you feed upon Him.
- And this week, I want to show you from Matthew 14:22-33 that He is:
 - “A Comfort to the Distressed.”
 - Not, of course, to all who are distressed, but to those who find His deliverance in their distress—for those who are His disciples.

Now to introduce this week’s topic, I want to ask you a question:

- “Have you ever noticed how storms often come as soon as you set out to do God’s will?”
 - I mean in the everyday issues of discipleship...
 - 1) You are a mother who realises that you need to be more disciplined in the service of your family, and you take practical steps to make that happen...

- You plan a new schedule and you begin to implement, and then someone gets sick and throws everything off track!
 - You were only trying to do God's will, and a storm breaks out.
- 2) Or you come to realise that you have not been very diligent about caring for the needs of others.
- You begin to make plans to reach out to the lost and to show hospitality to other believers,
 - and then there is a meeting at work and you are told that the place is shutting down and you no longer have a job.
 - You were only trying to do God's will, and a storm breaks out.
- 3) You are convicted in a sermon about your need to be more diligent in keeping the Lord's Day Holy...
- You start to make changes in the way you do things, start ordering your life around the day,
 - and then Christmas falls on a Sunday and all the relatives are upset with you because you dare to put the Lord's Day above Christmas.
 - They call you evil and divisive even though they are the ones who are disobeying God's commandment.
 - You were only trying to do God's will, and a storm breaks out.
- 4) You are reading the Bible and you realise that you need to honour your parents.
- You begin looking for ways to honour your mother,
 - With enthusiasm, you step decide that you will do something extra for her—you will wash the windows for her...
 - but instead of appreciating it, she gets mad at you for using the wrong kind of cleaner or some other trivial matter...
 - You were only trying to do God's will, and a storm breaks out.
- 5) Now Christian, I want you to connect with what I am saying!
- I am sure you can all think of times when you set out to do something for the Lord that seemed to lead you right into a storm!
 - Surely you can all come up with your own illustrations of this.
 - You were only trying to do God's will, and a storm broke out.

TRANS> Well I want you to take a look at what Matthew 14:22-33 has to say about this.

- I want you to see from this passage that:

I. Storms come to those who do God's will.

A. You are greatly mistaken if you think doing the will of God will prevent storms!

1. Oh yes, there are certain kinds of storms that will be prevented...
 - a. You will not have the dark clouds of a guilty conscience—
 - Your spouse may leave you for doing the will of God, but you will not be the cause of the break-up.
 - You are not to blame if doing God's will was the reason he or she left you, even though you will be blamed.
 - b. Nor will you have many of the storms that those who disobey God's will have such as:
 - unwanted pregnancies,
 - getting caught for stealing,
 - driving your children away,
 - the sorrows associated with drunkenness
 - and many other such things...

TRANS> There are storms that doing the will of God will indeed prevent...

2. But there are many other storms that will come precisely **because** you are doing the will of God.

- a. That is exactly the case in Matthew 14:22-33!
 - 1) In verse 22, we are told that immediately after the feeding of the five thousand,
 - Jesus **made** His disciples get into the boat and go to the other side.
 - The word "**made**" is a word that means "to constrain" or "to force."
 - a) It would appear that this was something the disciples did not at all want to do!
 - Jesus had just done this great miracle and the multitude was quite impressed—
 - John tells us that they were wanting to take Jesus by force and make Him King.
 - Now judging from what we know about the disciples,
 - they probably thought this was quite a good thing!
 - "Its about time the people gave Him the honour He deserves!"

- b) But of course, Jesus did not wish to be king on the terms of the multitudes—or of His disciples!
 - Their idea of His reign was that Israel would become mighty and prosperous in a worldly sense! that the Romans would be brought down.
 - Jesus, therefore, had to force His disciples to leave.
 - That He made them go away suggests that they only did it because of His authority...
 - not at all because they wanted to go away.
 - They were obeying Him because He was Lord,
 - not because they thought it was either a good or a desirable thing for them to leave.

2) But then look at what happens!

- a) No sooner do they get out into the water and one of those sudden, violent storms breaks out!
 - These storms were common on the Sea of Galilee.
 - The lake is about 700 feet below sea level and gets very hot in day, while there are mountains that rise some 2000 feet right next to the sea.
 - When the cooler air from the mountains meets the warmer air from the lake, violent, unexpected storms break out.
- b) If only they had not listened to Jesus, they would not be caught in this middle of this storm!
 - If they had simply followed their own instincts, this would have never happened.
 - It was only because they had obeyed Jesus that their lives were now in peril!

b. And so it often is that doing the will of God brings storms...

- 1) Moses wouldn't have faced the rebellion of the people if he had lightened up in his leadership the way Aaron did when he let them make the golden calf (even though he knew better)...
- 2) Jeremiah would have had a much easier life if only he had softened his message a little...
- 3) And the apostle Paul was not persecuted until He became a disciple of Jesus Christ...
 - it was then that everything from poverty to beatings became his lot

- and even if he had wanted to be a Christian, it would have made all the difference if he had just accommodated the Jews a little and insisted that the Gentiles be circumcised... What could be the harm of that?

4) And the reformers—just a little accommodation of some of the errors in the church and they would have been a lot more popular than they were.

B. There is a great danger in becoming a “storm-dodger.”

1. A storm dodger is a person who serves Christ in a general way, but who fudges on a few of the details to avoid conflict with others...

a. It is so easy to justify such behaviour...

- “after all,” the half-hearted disciple says, “I will have more influence on them if I don’t alienate myself from them too much.”
- And besides, it is only a little thing—what real difference will it make?
 - I will be so distracted by all the disturbance it will cause if I don’t go to my Mom’s church, but it is a Christian church and no church is perfect...

b. Oh yes, you will avoid a lot of storms if you just learn to compromise...

- But I declare to you that the will of God not negotiable!
- Yes, you ought to do everything you can to maintain peace with everyone—do all that is in your power—go out of your way to show kindness and mercy to those who oppose you...
 - But you must never set aside what God has called you to do in order to maintain peace!
 - It is never right to do wrong in order to do good.

2. I tell you, if you side step God’s will to avoid the storm, you can expect your discipleship to be quite barren and unfruitful!

a. God sends such trials to test our love for Him.

- If you love your family or your peace or anything else more than Christ, you cannot be His disciple...
- And He continually tests your obedience by forcing you to choose between His will and the will of someone you love.
 - Is that not what God did to Abraham when He called him to offer up Isaac as a sacrifice?

b. The way you respond to these tests shows whom you really love.

- And not only that, but when you do God’s will in these times, your relationship with Him is greatly strengthened and enhanced!

- There is a depth and a fruitfulness that comes that was not there before.
 - If you compromise, expect your relationship with Christ to shrivel up.
 - Do not live your life as a storm dodger.
- c. Recently we saw how Herod lived a very complex life because he was a storm dodger...
- 1) He had to make a lots of decisions of policy—
 - Should he get rid of John to please his wife, or should he keep him alive to please the multitudes?
 - What will his friends at the party think if he doesn't keep the promise he made to his stepdaughter who has called for John's head?
 - He was always trying to figure out how to avoid storms and in so doing,
 - He brought himself under the storm of God's displeasure.
 - 2) John, on the other hand, lived a simple life...
 - He had only one agenda—to do the will of God.
 - People could criticise him or even kill him, but that had no bearing on what he was going to do.
 - If doing the will of God brought a big storm, that was a storm he wanted to be in.

TRANS> And it is the storm that you should want to be in also...

- The storm that comes from obeying the will of God is a good storm!
 - That is the storm where every disciple of Jesus Christ belongs!
 - That is the storm that the disciples were in on the Sea of Galilee.
- It is easy to think that you must have done something wrong when the storm comes...
 - And indeed, you ought to examine yourself to see if you are being chastened for some wrong...
 - But do not ever suppose that just because a storm comes, it means you have disobeyed God...
 - And do not ever regret your “storm-raising-obedience” no matter how bad the storm may get...
 - Do not say, as Israel did in the wilderness,

- “It would have been better for us to have remained in Egypt than to die in the wilderness.”
- “If obeying God means I have to go through a storm like this,
 - I do not want to obey Him.”

TRANS> And this leads me to the next thing I want you to learn from this passage... namely, that...

II. You must never doubt the Lord’s gracious care for you in the storm...

A. He is caring for you even though you cannot always see Him in the storm.

1. Often the Lord gives you encouraging tokens of His presence during the storm...
 - a. You see little expressions of His kindness in the middle of the trial—
 - He sends a friend to support you and encourage you...
 - He provides encouraging counsel from His word to guide you in the way...
 - He brings refreshing promises to you to comfort you and reassure you.
 - In His providence, He brings relief to you...
 - He sends a fish to swallow you instead of casting you to the bottom of the sea.
 - Little things happen to remind you that He has not forsaken you.
 - b. These little signs of His care are often just what we need to keep our faith strong and to know that though the storm rages,
 - He has not forsaken us.
2. But there are times when He is pleased to withdraw His visible care from us almost completely...
 - a. When we look about on every side and can find no one to comfort, no encouraging providences.
 - And so it was that Jesus was not visibly present with His disciples in this storm.
 - You may remember in a previous storm,
 - He was on the boat but sleeping!
 - Well, it would seem that now Jesus’ disciples are given a greater test...
 - This time He is not in the boat at all when the storm comes—at least not visibly!
 - Dear Christian, I want you to know that this is how He works...

- He increases the trials to strengthen your faith...
 - He makes Himself less visible to the flesh in order that you might see Him with the eye of faith...
 - You pray, and He does not seem to hear you.
 - It seems that you cannot awaken Him—that He is not there to awaken at all!
- b. But just what was Jesus doing?
- 1) It is true—He was not with His disciples...
 - He had deliberately separated Himself from them...
 - which points to what He was going to do in time when He ascended into heaven and left them to serve Him on earth...
 - when they would not know him after the flesh any more.
 - 2) But look at the beautiful picture of what He is doing!
 - He is there on the mountain praying!
 - He is there as our great high priest interceding for us the whole time we are in the storm.
 - We cannot see Him with the eye of flesh,
 - but we can see Him with the eye of faith!
 - This is what He is doing for His church today in heaven!
 - He knows all about you...
 - He knows all about the storm He has sent you into...
 - He knows that you are there because of obedience to Him...
 - He knows how you are handling the storm...
 - And he knows what He is going to do with the storm.

TRANS> He has not forgotten you at all, for He is faithful to His promise that “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

- Oh Christian, you can be sure of this!
3. But you would say, “Then why does He seem to be so far from answering my prayers?”
 - Perhaps you would say to Him as the psalmist did,
 - “Oh Lord, why are you hiding yourself from me?”
 - “If He knows, why doesn’t He come to us to help us?”
- a. These questions arise because sometimes He waits long to show Himself to us in the raging storm...

- Verse 24 tells us that the boat was now in the middle of the sea...
 - One of the other gospels says that they were about 5 kilometres out—and that on a voyage that should have only taken them 1 or 2 kilometres from the shore line at most!
 - Verse 24 further says that they are being tossed by the waves—
 - the word tossed being a very strong verb that means tortured or tormented.
- b. Jesus left them to wrestle with this storm throughout most of the night,
- for we are told in v. 25 that it was not until the fourth watch that He finally came to them...
 - The Romans divided the night up into four three hour periods—
 - and Jesus left them wrestle with this storm until the fourth watch which began at 3 AM.
- c. How long His disciples have to wait at times!
- How long did Abraham wait for God's promise!
 - Israel had to wait for 400 years in Egypt before their deliverance came!
 - How long did David wait when he was pursued by Saul!
 - Some times trials seem to go on forever.
 - And some times the Lord seems to be altogether hidden from us!
 - But you must know that He does see you and He knows all about it.
 - He knows what He is doing!
 - He is stretching your faith to teach you to trust in Him.

TRANS> And so I say that this passage shows you that

- He is caring for you even though you cannot always see Him in the storm.
 - But it also shows you something else...
 - It shows you that:

B. He is caring for you even though you **do** see Him during the storm.

1. Sometimes it is even more difficult when He comes to us during the storm because He comes to us and He still does not take the storm away!
 - a. Sometimes misguided disciples take comfort in the fact that the Lord is not there...

- like Martha and Mary they say, “Lord, if you had been here, our brother would not have died.”
 - If He had been there and their brother had died it would have been much more difficult.
 - They take a false kind of comfort that because He was not there in a way they could tell,
 - He did not know about it...
 - And that if He had known, He would have kept the storm from every happening.
- b. And so it is that when Jesus finally makes Himself known to the disciples in the storm, they are not at first comforted by it...
- 1) They are not comforted because He does not make the storm go away.
 - 2) They see Him, walking on the water in the storm, but they do not think it is Him...
 - They do not think it is Him because they left him behind on the shore...
 - And they do not think it is Him because the storm is still raging.
 - 3) Rather than recognising their Lord,
 - they think He is an evil spirit—a phantom who has come only to make things worse for them!
- c. And so the Lord comes and brings tokens of His grace to us in the trial and we do not accept Him...
- 1) He brings His word to us to assure us that He is indeed with us and that He is in control of it all...
 - That the waves do not frazzle Him in the least, but that He walks on top of the raging sea and makes it His pathway...
 - 2) And instead of being comforted by this,
 - We say, “This cannot be the Lord,”
 - For if He is here in this storm and if He knows what I am going through, He would take it away...
 - And so we refuse the comfort He offers to us
2. But see how He speaks again to reassure them...saying,
- “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”

- a. In the storm, He causes His word of truth to break through to us so that even though the storm still rages on,
 - we know for sure that it truly is Him!

- b. How rich are those words in our trials—
 - “Be of good cheer! It is I, do not be afraid.”
 - 1) How empty such words would be on the lips of anyone but the Lord!
 - Imagine an ordinary man in the middle of a storm saying, “Take heart, I am here now! Don’t be afraid!”
 - What useless comfort!
 - What difference does it make if a mere man has come to be with us in the storm...
 - He will sink with the rest of us!

 - 2) Yet, how common it is for the world to take comfort in such empty reassurances...
 - They say, “no problem,” “Don’t worry, everything will be okay.”
 - What do such expressions mean?
 - They have no power to calm the storm!
 - It may get worse.

 - 3) But what reason you have to be comforted when it is Jesus who tells you to be of good cheer in the midst of the raging storm...
 - He is assuring you of His great loving for you in the storm...
 - of His power over the storm...
 - of His good purposes in your life through the storm!
 - Be of good cheer, it is I, the Lord of the storm, the One who walks on the water...
 - You are going through all this for me—
 - to learn about me, to honour me, to give glory to me.
 - This storm will by no means hurt you.
 - It is part of my wise and loving purpose for you.
 - You can take heart because I am here, I am in control, and I know what I am doing.
 - I know about your angry mother...
 - I know that people are calling you evil...
 - I know all about the pain...

- I know about the raging waves and the roaring wind.
- TRANS> Take heart in your trials, brothers and sisters...
 - It is all the gracious work of Jesus.
 - He is there and He is working out His gracious purposes for you.
- C. And now Peter comes to view to show how we respond to our Lord's revealed presence.
1. "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."
 - a. In other words, "Let me rise above this storm where you are!"
 - b. And remarkably, Jesus says, "come!"
 - And you find here that suddenly by the Lord's power, Peter is able to rise above the storm and walk on the water.
 - He is so glad to see his Lord and he wants to go to him,
 - and so for a moment the storm seems to completely lose its power over him...
 - It rages on, Peter is able to defy it.
 - c. Christian, have you not known such times in your trials?
 - The comfort of the Lord comes to you and it is such a great comfort that the trial becomes almost irrelevant...
 - In fact, it becomes a pathway to the Lord!
 - You are able to come to him on the very wings of the storm and find Him with an unsurpassed freshness and purity!
 2. But such times are often far too short, are they not?
 - a. Peter is going along, looking to his Lord in faith,
 - but then we told that he shifts his eyes back to the waves and the wind again and he is struck with fear!
 - Here He is in the midst of the sea with nothing to support him in the middle of a raging storm!
 - He begins to sink into the water and cries out to Jesus for deliverance!
 - And Jesus extends His hand and catches him because Peter's faith could no longer support him
 - b. Now I might not understand that the cause of Peter's sinking was the failure of his faith if Jesus had not spoken to him and said,
 - "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

- 1) And indeed, why did he doubt?
 - a) He had already started out walking across the water...
 - b) The waves did not change and his Lord did not change...
 - c) Why did Peter start to sink under the trial?

- 2) And the answer is that there was no good reason to doubt.
 - a) It is not an easy lesson, but you must come to terms with it!
 - Jesus wants us to be of good cheer in our trials.
 - He wants us to totally trust in Him that we might walk on top of the water.

 - b) The only thing that makes us start to sink is when we take our eyes off of Him.
 - We like to think that there is no defect in us when that happens—that it is perfectly justified...
 - But our Lord has a different assessment of it...
 - He says, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt.”

 - c) The clear implication of this statement is that it is because of a defect in our faith that we sink in trials.
 - It is true that our Lord is gentle with us in our weakness and failings, but He never justifies us for losing confidence in our testing.
 - It is always a fault in us that needs to be corrected.
 - This does not mean that we may not suffer and weep in our trials and find them difficult...
 - Jesus Himself did that...
 - But we must walk on top them by faith,
 - never taking our eyes off of the Lord,
 - knowing for certain that this trial was sent by Him and is for our good and His glory.

 - d) Another way to say this is that the trial must always carry us to Him.
 - If it starts to make us whine and complain and curse,
 - then we are sinking under the trial the way Israel did when the grumbled against God in the wilderness...

- If the trial causes us to wish we hadn't obeyed our Lord, or causes us to compromise our obedience to Him to find relief...
- then we have surely sunk under that trail and we must cry out to our Lord to save us lest we be swallowed up by it!

TRANS> Yes, Peter is our example here.

- Our faith is very much like his—
 - It rises and falls and is often tripped up by the smallest things.
- But praise to our Lord Jesus that even when He tests us and our faith starts to fail,
 - He is there to rescue us when we cry out to Him in desperation...
 - And if you are His own, you will always cry out when you start to sink.
- And so you learn here that you must never doubt your Lord in your trails...
 - You must learn to walk above them by faith,
 - and know that even though you doubt and start to sink, the Lord will still rescue you.
- And now I want you to consider:

III. What will be the final outcome of the storm?

A. First, I want you to be assured that the storm will end.

1. When Jesus got into the boat with the disciples, the storm ended.
 - a. This is a great and glorious picture of what will happen to the church when our Lord Jesus returns from heaven at the end of the age.
 - He will come to be with us and the storm will cease forever.
 - 1 Thes 4:16-17 says:
 - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
 - We will go up to meet Him and escort Him to the earth as He was escorted into Jerusalem with palm branches and hosannas!
 - b. And as soon as He comes to be with us, all sorrow and sighing will end forever.
 - He told us that in this world we will have tribulation,

- but once these storms have fulfilled their purpose, they will end...
 - He is the Lord of the storm and He will stop it as soon as it has accomplished its work.
2. What a great comfort it is in your trials to know that there is an end!
- a. Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
- That is God's promise to us.
 - He will change the storm into a clam and there will be peace forever more.
 - Remember that and take comfort in that dear child of God.
 - It is necessary for you to suffer many things now...
 - But what a relief to know that there will be an end.
- b. Your Lord does not call you to delight in the storm and in the pain...
- 1) He Himself prayed that if it were possible, the bitter cup of the cross would pass from Him...
- He looks on us with compassion in our sufferings...
 - He weeps with us in our afflictions...
 - He has prepared an end.
- 2) In other words, you are not called to be so reconciled to your storms that you love the storm itself...
- You love it for the good it brings—
 - but you are not called to love the pain and the sorrow.
 - You are to look for the end and hope for the end of the storm because God has promised that there will be an end...
 - Sorrow and sighing shall flee away as soon as Jesus comes to be with us...
 - A rainbow of a greater promise will appear in the sky as a pledge that we will never face another storm.
 - That is our hope as God's children.

TRANS> Take comfort that there will be an end to the storm.

- that is the first thing...
- But you might well ask the question,
 - Why must there be a storm in the first place?

- Why did the twelve have to pass through this storm
 - and why do I have to pass through so many storms?
 - The storms are necessary to bring about a certain result in us as God's people.
 - You are to bear the storm with patience and hope, not simply because there is an end to it...
 - but because of the good that it brings to you.

B. What is the storm to accomplish in you?

1. You must remember that you are a fallen creature in a fallen world.
 - a. There is something fundamentally and seriously wrong with you at the very core of your being that permeates your whole being.
 - Sin has turned you against the very object that you were made to worship—
 - against the One who ought to be the centre of your life and your chief delight and glory.
 - Your whole life has gone astray and you have lost your way.
 - b. In order to set us right, something very radical had to be done...
 - The Son of God had to come to earth, assume human flesh, and give His life as a ransom for our sins.
 - He had to go through the storm of the cross for His people in order to pay the penalty of their sins.
 - That has been done, and you are called to find salvation by trusting in Him and what He has done to take away His people's sins.
 - If you do not have this faith in Him, everything I have said about the storm ending is not true for you.
 - You will have to endure the storm that He endured for yourself,
 - and because you are not the Son of God, it will take you an eternity to do so.
 - But for you who believe,
 - Understand that it was necessary for our Lord to go through this unspeakable storm of the cross to take away our sins.
 - There was a glorious outcome of His sufferings.

TRANS> But now there is a secondary sense in which we also need to go through the storms before the end.

- Though you are completely forgiven because of the storm that Jesus endured for you (if you are trusting in Him),
 - There is, as long as you are in this world, a need for storms in your life.

- 2. What good is accomplished by the storm?
 - Let us see from our text.
 - a. It is very evident here that the disciples came to know their Lord better than they had ever known Him before.
 - 1) Do you remember when we looked at the storm in Matthew 8 when Jesus was asleep in the boat?
 - How did the disciples respond at the end?
 - Matthew 8:27:
 - So the men marvelled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”
 - They realise that there is something extra-ordinary about Him.
 - 2) Now contrast that response with the way they respond at the end of this second storm in our text.
 - In Matthew 14:33 we are told:
 - Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”
 - They recognise with certainty that He is the Son of God!
 - Clearly, through the trial, they have come to know Him better than they ever knew Him before!
 - 3) That is what God does through trials...
 - He reveals His glory to His disciples.
 - You know Him better at the end of the trial than you did at the beginning!
 - a) Through the trial,
 - They came to understand His divine knowledge—that He knew about them the whole time and had not forgotten them.
 - They came to understand His divine power over the storm as they saw how he walked above the storm and was able to enable Peter to do the same...
 - And they came to understand His love for them like never before as they saw how He came to deliver them from the storm.

- b) Paul talks about this purpose of trials...
- He speaks of suffering in order that I might know Him—both the fellowship of His sufferings and the power of His resurrection.
 - Trials have a way of freeing us from self that we might behold the glory of the Lord.
 - It seems that such is required to bring us out of ourselves that we might turn our gaze upon Him and understand who He is.
 - They have a way of putting an end to our pre-occupation with self, and self as the centre of all mentality.
 - We realise that life is about Him and that all the glory is His, not ours.
 - We are humbled in order that we might look upon Him.

b. And so you see the outcome of their fresh knowledge of the Lord Jesus...

1) They did what we were all created to do...

- They worshipped Him!
 - To worship is praise Him and glory in His excellence and superior majesty!
 - It is to devote yourself to Him, recognising that your life is found in service to Him, and your happiness in beholding His glory.

2) But they would not have been able to worship Him like this but for the storm because they would not have known Him like this.

- And so it is for you.
- The storm is sent to you to tear you free from self glory that you might know Him worship Him as you have never worshipped Him before.

Conclusion

And so you must never suppose that trials are just random events...

- They are carefully designed by the Lord to accomplish His purposes.
 - You will indeed struggle and wrestle with doubt in your trial as Peter did, for that is part of the process,
 - but see that you struggle and wrestle with it and do not accept your doubt or make peace with it...
 - There is a painfully tearing away from pride in the trial,
 - but the outcome will be that you will know your Lord as you have not known Him before
 - and you will worship!

- And ask you—is your worship sluggish today?
 - Examine yourself carefully!
 - Could it be that you have been trying to avoid storms?
 - Have you have let the edge on your obedience has become dull...
 - Have you have sought to avoid the storm by softening your obedience?
 - If so, the result has been an empty calm instead of a living walk with God.
 - You have become cold and barren instead of warm and fruitful!
- My prayer for you is that you will awaken!
 - You have gone to sleep in your Lord's service!
 - You are avoiding the very things that would lead you to a richer, fuller, more fruitful relationship with Him...
 - You are tempted to try to pump life in that relationship by some other means...
 - by worshipping at the high places in worship that Christ has not appointed...
 - but Christ has called you to go out to sea for Him.