

## In the Eye of the Storm

### Scripture Reading — Mark 6:45-52

*Then [Jesus] climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. — Mark 6:51*

Storm winds were raging as Jesus' disciples fought to keep their boat afloat. Jesus saw their struggle from afar and walked out to them on the wild waves. When they saw him, they were terrified, thinking he was a ghost on the stormy sea.

Jesus could have remained on the shore and commanded the winds to tame down. At the very least, quieting the sea first might have made his walking out there easier. But instead Jesus joined his disciples in the turbulence, took the most difficult route, and then climbed into the rocking boat to be with them. "Don't be afraid," he said before calming the storm.

In this story, Jesus demonstrates the heart of God that still comforts us today as we battle life's storms. Jesus sees our struggles, comes near to us, and goes through the storm with us—whether or not he decides to calm or stop it.

The night before my doctor called to tell me that my cancer had returned, I had written a skit about this story. I soon realized that God had prepared me for what I was about to face, for he saw what was approaching even before the first cloud appeared.

Have you felt the presence of Jesus in your storm? Listen closely as he whispers to you, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

### Prayer

*Jesus, thank you that you don't stand at a distance when we are struggling against the storms of life. Instead, you come before we even call. Please calm our fears as we cling to you. Amen.*

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