



## What Story Are You Telling? Part 2: Jesus, Do You Care What's Happening?

January 10, 2021

### Notes

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world. John 16:33 ESV

17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will have you become fishers of people."  
Mark 1:17, NLT

### The Lake Effect

The definition of "lake effect" is a weather-related occurrence that happens as a result of the interaction of water and air or wind. A Lake Effect is a *storm* that produces change. It is a *collision* of two elements that *clash*. It produces a change in the atmosphere. But, it takes a storm to do it.

#### Lake Effect Fruit

Recently, I heard a term that I had never heard before: Lake Effect Fruit. A Lake Effect produces more than snow or rain. It also makes Michigan one of the major fruit-growing states in the country. Many in the farming industry will refer to the coastal areas of Michigan in the lower peninsula as The Fruit Belt because of the fruit production near the lakes. This is interesting - The same storm or collision that produces snows can also produce fruit. Why? Because a Lake Effect is more than just wind and breeze, it also regulates the temperature of the water. It delays blossoming of fruit trees in the spring, it delays frost in the fall, it makes summer a bit cooler, it moderates extreme winter cold. All of these are crucial to the many types of bountiful fruit grown in our region.

We usually do not look at the foot of snow in the driveway in April and think – I am excited for those Michigan cherries or apples this year! Or when you want to go to the beach and it is only 78 degrees you do not think the peaches will be really good this year. Or, when it is 80 degrees at the end of September you are not thinking about the blueberry production. We are often more interested in the comfort of our weather than the fruit it produces. Yet, one of the dominate themes in the Bible is our lives bearing fruit.

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. James 1:2-4 NLT

## Does Jesus Care?

35 As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." 36 So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). 37 But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

38 Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

39 When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. 40 Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

41 The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!" Mark 4:35-41, NLT

### The Storm

In the Matthew version, the storm is referred to as a *seismos* (Matt 8:24) which is the same word for earthquake. Matthew uses this word several other times in the book of Matthew:

- Once to describe this storm.
- Second, to describe the earthquake when Jesus dies on the cross (Matt 27:54)
- Third, to describe the earthquake when Jesus rose from the dead (Matt 28:2)
- And he also uses it to talk about end times.

### Fear

We may fear that the storms are more powerful than God, or what is created is stronger than the creator, or God will not do it at the right time, or God does not care.

But in that coming day no weapon turned against you will succeed. You will silence every voice raised up to accuse you. These benefits are enjoyed by the servants of the LORD; their vindication will come from me. I, the LORD, have spoken! Isaiah 54:17

### Me

My words do not calm the storm. My actions do not calm the storm. The adversity in my life does not respond to my intellect or my emotions or to my family or to my friends or to my bank account. The storms respond to one thing only!

They respond to Jesus. That is why we pray in the Name of Jesus. We pray in the name of the One who calms the storm.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last--and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. John 15:16 NIV

So, I will get whatever I ask for so I can bear fruit. But, I will not get an early spring just so I can be more comfortable because it will not bear fruit. **We need to start to cooperate with the storms to see change in our life.**

## Promises for Stormy Seasons

Isaiah 41:10

“Fear not, for I am with you;  
Be not dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you,  
Yes, I will help you,  
I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Psalms 55:22

“Cast your burden on the Lord,  
And He shall sustain you;  
He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And lean not on your own understanding;  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
And He shall direct your paths.”

Joshua 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”