



The Severn Wye
Ministry Area

Sea Sunday – July 2025

Jesus Calms the Storm (Luke 8:22-25 NIV UK)

“One day, Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Let us go over to the other side of the lake.’ So they got into a boat and set out. As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger. The disciples went and woke him, saying, ‘Master, Master, we’re going to drown!’ He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ‘Where is your faith?’ he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement, they asked one another, ‘Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.’”

Currently, 1.9 million seafarers from every nation work tirelessly, often at significant personal cost, to bring us 90% of everything we use and consume across the sea. In Luke 8:22-25 we see Jesus, early in His ministry, suggesting that He and His disciples cross the Sea of Galilee. They set off, many of them seasoned fishermen, yet a fierce storm arises and swamps their boat. Though the danger is real, Jesus is asleep until His followers cry out for help. When He awakes, He rebukes the wind and the waves – and calm is instant. Through this miracle, He demonstrates He is present throughout our storms. His quiet confidence reflects His knowledge of who He is. His question, “Where is your faith?” suggests that the disciples (and we) need to trust He is in control, even when disaster appears imminent.

The Storms Faced by Seafarers:

For seafarers, grappling with violent storms is part of the job. Rough seas, unpredictable weather, and the threat of piracy or accidents create a dangerous environment. Yet, it is not just literal storms that seafarers battle with. I have seen a recent case of bullying and personality clashes, extreme tiredness, seafarers watching their homes being blown up (Ukrainians) or ravaged by storms (Filipinos) on TV or videos sent to them. Seafarers can also face a range of other storms:

- Isolation: Months away from family, with limited contact.
- Mental Health Struggles: Long working hours, stressful conditions, and few resources.
- Financial Pressures: Supporting extended families at home.
- Physical Risks: Heavy workloads and the potential for injuries.

The Storms in Our Own Lives:

We all face storms, whether sickness, money troubles, or broken relationships. These can leave us feeling just as anxious as the disciples. In our times of stress, we might wonder if Jesus is distant or asleep. Yet, as in Luke’s account, He is right there in the boat with us, waiting for us to call on Him. When Jesus asks, “Where is your faith?” it challenges us to consider who or what we truly trust when the waves rise. He doesn’t pretend the storm is mild but shows us that He alone can calm it – physically or within our hearts. The promise is not an absence of trouble but His presence in it.

The Mission to Seafarers' Role:

The Mission to Seafarers offer online support, offering reassurance and a listening ear. They can intervene on the Seafarer's behalf, they can arrange medical help and in some countries the Mission has a Family Network particularly in the Philippines. The Mission is able to step in to calm storms.

The Mission to Seafarers operates in 190 ports across 50 countries, they:

- Visit ships, providing friendship and practical help.
- Operate seafarer centres with free Wi-Fi and SIM cards, which are vital for staying connected to loved ones.
- Offer spiritual and emotional support, helping seafarers navigate stress and loneliness.
- Advocate for seafarers facing unfair treatment or unsafe conditions, standing up for their rights.

Such work reflects Jesus' example of meeting people where they are and bringing peace amid turmoil. The Mission relies on the support of individuals and churches to continue.

We can all play a part:

- Prayer: Lift up seafarers and their families. Pray for protection, strong mental health, and contentment as they serve far from home.
- Financial Support: Consider contributing to the Mission to Seafarers so they can respond whenever a Seafarer cries out.
- Volunteering: Living near a port, there may be opportunities to visit ships, provide transport, or offer hospitality.
- Locally, we are also surrounded by people weathering storms. Christ's presence with us in the boat calls us to extend His calm wherever we see anxiety, isolation, and need. It might be a neighbour who is unwell or a colleague burdened by debt—Jesus calls us to be channels of His peace.

Finally:

As we consider the story of Jesus calming the storm, remember that He is with us in every tempest we face. Just as He brought peace to the disciples, He offers that same peace to each of us. May we trust in His sovereignty, find solace in His presence, and extend His love to those navigating the storms of life.

By Ros Downs using resources from the Mission To Seafarers