

HOW CAN WE SURVIVE TRIALS WHICH WILL COME FOR FOLLOWING JESUS?

Matthew 8:23-27

- I. **UNDERSTAND TRIALS ARE COMING WHEN YOU FOLLOW AND OBEY HIM: Jesus' disciples are thrust into a life and death trial for obeying and following Him (23-24)**
 - A. Trials are coming: The disciples are lead into a great storm (23-24a)

 - B. God often uses storms to symbolize our great trials (various OT passages)

 - C. Understand the difference between trials for following and obeying versus His discipline for our disobedience (23-24a, Hebrews 12:4-11)

- II. **DON'T BE A SPIRITUAL COWARD IN TRIALS, LEARN TO COMPLETELY TRUST CHRIST: Jesus rebukes these cowardly disciples (24b-26a)**
 - A. This deadly trial was no concern for Christ: He was asleep (24b)

 - B. Learn from the disciples: **Go to Christ, not as a spiritual coward, but as a trusting dependant disciple (25-26a)**
 1. **What they did right:** They believed (a little faith) Jesus could save them (25a)

 2. **What they did wrong:** They were rebuked for being fearful and cowardly thinking they would perish, even with Christ on board (25b-26a)

- III. **REALIZE JESUS IS IN CONTROL AND SOVEREIGN OVER YOUR TRIAL AND RESPOND RIGHTLY: Jesus turns a GREAT STORM into GREAT CALM (26b-27)**