



# APPNOTES

**Date:** Mar 23-27, 2020

**Series:** Witness: The Miracles of Jesus

**Matthew 8:23-27** Over the past few weeks, our world has been experiencing a furious storm. However, our current storm is not in the form of destructive waves and dangerous wind; it is a microscopic organism. Many of us are reacting as the disciples did in this passage of scripture - with fear and anxiety. We may not see God. We may even think He is 'sleeping' through our distress. But, these verses should ease the mind of each believer and confirm that our fear is futile. Jesus has proven time and time again that we have no reason to fear. We can have great encouragement and hope knowing that God is always with us. Just as the waves and wind stopped immediately at Jesus' rebuke, we too have authority over all the storms of our lives with the power of God's word. Declare peace through Christ and peace will come.

**John 11:35** One of the shortest bible verses carries the most punch. In this verse, we see the humanity of Christ as he weeps. He hurts when others hurt. But His emotions were different from those of Lazarus' sisters who were mourning the death of their brother. Earlier in this chapter, Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness would not end in death. He knew Lazarus was dead before responding to Mary and Martha's message. He knew He would soon raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus wept because He felt compassion for the pain of these sisters, even though He knew they ultimately had no need to mourn. Jesus' death and resurrection to conquer our sins is proof positive of God's glory and love for us, but He still feels compassion for our pain. We can confidently embrace the truth that Christ's compassion for us is never failing!

**Job 42:12-15** Job was a devout man whom God greatly blessed. Satan questioned Job's loyalty, saying he was only pious because he was a man who had everything; there was no reason for him to question or doubt God. So God allowed Satan to test Job's faithfulness. And tested he was! All of Job's possessions were destroyed, all of his children killed, and he was inflicted with head to toe (very painful) boils. Everyone urged him to curse God. But in the end, Job acknowledged God's sovereignty and prayed for

those who mocked him. After all this: “The LORD blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the former part.” After all he endured, God not only renewed Job’s life, He enhanced it. What an important reminder for all God’s children that through our trials, we need to remember how it all ends!

**Mark 6:39-44** Most of us are familiar with the miracle of the loaves and the fishes; Jesus fed five thousand hungry followers with only five loaves of bread and two fish. Prior to this, the apostles were concerned about how to nourish so many people with such a small amount of food. Once again, they questioned Jesus’ direction and were then astounded at the outcome. How many of us worry that we may not have enough? We are seeing this play out today with the hoarding of food and supplies. Store shelves are empty and people are panicking. But let’s look to this passage to ease our minds. Just as Jesus left every person satisfied, He will also satisfy our needs. We need to follow His example and give thanks for what we do have. We may not be able to have what we want, but God’s provision will see us through.

**Luke 24:1-7 - Unconditional Love** Let’s end the week focusing on the most promising and impactful of all miracles, the resurrection! In this passage, we witness the greatest of God’s gifts – unconditional love! The Son of Man was delivered to the hands of sinners, crucified to bear our sins, and conquered death on the third day by rising from the grave. We sometimes assume that following Christ means that we will be insulated from trials and suffering. But Jesus doesn’t call us to a life of comfort, He calls us to a walk of obedience. It is in the stress of our storms that we come to understand the strength of our Savior. The Gospel is an invitation to trust Jesus for our eternal salvation. If we can trust Him for that, we can trust Him to care for us in our present-day tribulations.

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