



Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. 24 They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep. 25 For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.... 28 Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. 29 He stilled the storm to a whisper (Psalm 107)

As we move into October, we begin to think of the dark, the cold, and the wind and the storms. We can easily fall into dread, or dark thoughts. But Jesus has a different plan for us. Let the winds blow, let the storms come, but let's look to the Lord, whose provision is always only blessing and good – in all things.



In the 1800s, here was a very well-known Methodist preacher called the Rev Mark Pearse. He was the minister of a church in Cornwall. As a pastor to sailors and fishermen, he was well aware of perils that faced “those who went out onto the sea in ships” (see text above) particularly the danger of the winds. The north wind bringing snow and ice; the south and west bringing storms; and the east blowing against a safe passage into the harbour.

Rev Pearse was also aware of the day to day storms of life in the existence of the rest of the congregation, and said to them:

***“Every wind that blows is fair for heaven...
every wind will help towards that blessed port”***

Could this *really* be true? Every wind and storm encountered by those who put their trust in Jesus is only a means of growing us, and blowing us deeper into our experience of eternal life? If this is true, then surely we should rejoice and give thanks to the Lord that every gale, shower and storm is, in fact, a blessing from the God who loves and cares for us with an infinite love.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the robe of many colours that he wore. And they took him and threw him into a pit...Then Judah said to his brothers, "Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites"



Can you recall the story of Joseph,

- *Joseph was mocked and abused*
- *His precious gift was destroyed*
- *Joseph was thrown down a pit*
- *He was trafficked to Ishmaelites*
- *Joseph was sold into slavery*
- *He was wrongly accused of rape*
- *Joseph was imprisoned in Egypt*

How many gales, hurricanes, storms and showers can one person endure?

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present outcome, that many people would be kept alive
(Genesis 50.20)



In the final chapters of the book of Genesis, Joseph is reunited with his very hungry brothers when they turn up in Egypt looking for grain. When Joseph looks back over what the brothers had put him through, he analyses it this way:

“you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good”

Why didn't Joseph say: I've had many years of bad luck, or I've had to work very hard to get where I am now – no thanks to you lot! He can perceive the hand of a loving God in all he's been through; nothing random; nothing tragic. only good - *“Every wind that blows is fair for heaven...every wind will help towards that blessed port”*

Lord there are days when I feel like I can't go on. Yet, I know You are my source of strength and endurance. When I am weary and weak, lift me up and help me to keep going. Lord, You are working in ways I cannot see. Let my heart be filled with hope, even in the darkest moments, as I cling to Your promises.

Strengthen my faith, so that I do not give up but continue pressing forward with confidence that You will see me through. Reassure me that You are with me every step of the way. Help me to focus on Your goodness and faithfulness, trusting that You are shaping me and strengthening me through this difficult time. Thank You for Your love and for giving me the endurance to continue, even when it feels impossible. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

