

An abstract image featuring a large, dynamic splash of blue ink or paint against a light, off-white background. The ink forms intricate, swirling patterns that spread across the upper half of the frame. Centered over this splash is the text "IN THE FACE OF JESUS" in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

IN THE FACE OF JESUS

# Sermon Growth Guide

**July 6, 2025**  
**There is Patience**



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**Luke 8:19-26**

**Key Verse:** Luke 8:25 - “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.”

**Big Idea:** The perfect patience of God can be found in the face of Jesus.

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## Foundations

This week, we come to the fruit of patience.

In Luke 8:19-26, Jesus models deep patience – first with his family’s misunderstanding, then with his disciples’ fear and lack of faith during the storm. He is not reactive or harsh. But he calmly stills the chaos. He invites them – and us – into a life formed not by panic, but by faith.

Patience, as seen in Jesus, is not passive. It is an active endurance rooted in confidence in God’s timing and power. His patience with the disciples mirrors his patience with us! He will never abandon us in the storms we face, but he will speak peace to them and call us to trust him as we place our faith in Him.

As we continue to follow Jesus, we continue to look for the fruits of the Spirit to be cultivated in us. As we peer into the face of Jesus, we will see the One who doesn’t demand instant maturity from us, but the One who walks with us, teaches and even patiently waits for us to bring our faith forward.

## Understanding God’s Word

Read Luke 8:19-26 together. What stands out to you in how Jesus responds to being misunderstood by his own family (vv. 19-21)? What does that show us about his priorities and inner peace?

In the boat, the disciples panic. How does Jesus demonstrate patience with them even as they accuse him of not caring?

Jesus asks, “Where is your faith?” Do you hear that as a rebuke, an invitation, or something else? Why?

What might it look like to grow in the kind of patience Jesus shows – in chaos, in waiting, in relationships?

## Applying God’s Word

Jesus calmly brings order to the storm. Where do you need Jesus to speak peace into a storm in your life right now?

When have you lost faith or composure in a difficult moment? How did God meet you there?

Jesus doesn’t rush faith formation. Where might you need to slow down and trust God’s timing – in your family, work, etc?

## Witnessing God’s Word

Jesus doesn’t avoid chaos – he enters into it and brings peace. How can your life be a witness to the unshakable peace and patience of Christ?

There's a story of a man who planted two seeds in the backyard; one was an oak tree, the other a bamboo. The oak tree, right from the beginning, began to grow super fast, and in just a few years it was strong, tall, and provided shade for almost half the yard. But the spot where the bamboo seed went in – nothing. Two years went by – nothing. Three years – still nothing. The man thought the seed might have failed, but he kept watering it anyway.

Then in the fifth year the bamboo sprouted. And in just six weeks, it grew over 80 feet tall! In all those years leading up to it sprouting, the man could see that nothing was growing up – what it was doing all that time was growing down. It was developing a root system strong enough to support the growth that would soon come up.

Sometimes, this is the way it goes with God: we pray, we wait, we wonder if God's there, if he's listening or doing anything at all. But sometimes, God calls us to patiently trust that he's actively doing something deep, even if we can't see it yet. Brothers and sisters, you may be here today feeling like nothing is happening. Could it be that God is building your roots? Remember the bamboo.

We've been on a hunt to trace the fruit of the Spirit through the life and person of Jesus. Our sermon series has been "In the Face of Jesus" – and today, we come to the fruit of patience. There is Patience.

Where is patience? When we think of the virtue of patience, we kind of think it's a passive thing: "Oh, I'll just sit idly by here... and wait for somebody to do something, or wait for something to happen...I'll just develop some patience here as I..." Wait for what is now a delayed flight... Drive home in 5 O Clock traffic... Hold my tongue when I'd rather speak... Wait for the preacher to wrap it up already! All these are places where patience is forged. Right? Well... maybe.

When we look into the face of Jesus, we see that patience is anything but passive! With Jesus, patience looks more like active love over time. Patience could be thought about as forbearance or even long-suffering for the sake of others. When we actually get close enough to turn our eyes upon the face of Jesus, and behold who he really is... we see that patience looks more like grace that goes the distance. Today's text gives us a striking portrait of that kind of patience.

I want to ask you: Where does the Lord's patience need to meet you today? My hope for you and me this morning, isn't that we merely observe it from the outside, but embody it on the inside. First Pres, what if the Lord could make a patient people today? What if he made you more patient? What kind of gift would that be to our impatient world! It's a dangerous prayer, isn't it – "Lord, make me patient!" Are we up for it?

Now, before we get into the boat, it's important for us to zoom out a bit and see the context of Jesus' patience. Verse 19... this is before the boat:

19 Now Jesus' mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. 20 Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you."

21 He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

So here comes Mary and Jesus' brothers, just trying to find him, just trying to get a glimpse of what's going on... somebody notices them and informs Jesus of their arrival. But when Jesus learns this, it looks like he's turning them away! them away! At best it appears that Jesus is ignoring his mama and his brothers, at worst he's downright rejecting them – but that's not the Jesus we know, and that's not what he's doing. But he's redefining the word "family." The true family of Jesus is made up of those who not only hear God's Word, but put it into practice.

Now, this isn't new news in Luke. If we were to turn a few pages back to Luke 6, we'd find Jesus saying this a few chapters earlier...

47 As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

49 But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed, and its destruction was complete."

It's an important setup for what comes next, because what we're about to witness is how Jesus deals with followers who have heard the Word – but still don't understand. He's just said, "My family are those who hear my words and apply them." Now comes the test in the boat:

22 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. 23 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 Sea of Galilee – 8 miles wide and 13 miles long (if we were to drive it, that'd be about the distance from here to the Interquest exit)... and Jesus and his disciples are out in the middle of it. And what starts out as a serene scene suddenly turns scary. These experienced fisherman – men who practically lived on this lake –

suddenly find themselves overcome by a storm they had never experienced before and fearing for their lives. Any training they might have wielded for this moment – it didn't matter. The only thing left to do before perishing was to panic! When panic sets in, impatience prevails. True? We need results, and we need them now!

So they quickly go to Jesus. And what is Jesus doing? Sleeping! The disciples, reeling... Jesus, resting. The Son of God sawing logs! At first, I kinda thought: "Was Jesus really asleep in the midst of this craziness? Maybe Luke got some bogus info down the line... but then I went to the gospels of Matthew and Mark where we also find this scene, and you know what? Sure enough – he's sleeping there too! How could Jesus be sleeping?

I think there are two reasons here that help us. We have to remember that whenever we're looking into the face of Jesus, we are seeing someone who is two things at the same time:

Fully Human. Why was Jesus sleeping? He got tired! Jesus had been teaching large crowds all day long. His ministry was physically and emotionally demanding – healing the sick, casting out demons, teaching in parables, confronting critics. And like any human, the guy just got tired! Have you ever been so exhausted that it seems like nothing would wake you up? Jesus – sleeping in the storm here – shows us the real humanity of Christ: the Son of God became flesh and needed rest.

Ok. So Jesus was tired. So? Why is this helpful to us? Jesus knows our weakness – first hand. Look at Hebrews 4:15:

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin." Jesus understands – first hand – your weariness. He understands your exhaustion. He can empathize. Fully human.

But why else might Jesus be asleep in the boat? Even in this moment, Jesus is Fully God. The Prince of Peace – is totally at peace. Jesus could sleep through a storm not just because he was tired, but because the wind and the waves – that He once spoke into being, by the way – didn't threaten him. There, in the middle of this crazy storm – Jesus is one with AND completely at rest in his Father's care and control. Fully God.

Who knows - he might have been meditating on Psalm 4:8 - "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety." For some of you restless folks, who find it hard to fall asleep at night because of all life's current hardships, that verse might be the reason you came today. You might just

need to rest in the secure sovereignty of God.

Jesus' sleep was like a silent sermon about trust in the middle of a storm. But, for the disciples, in this moment all they can see is an emergency...

Verse 24...Jesus is sacked out

24 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.

Wanna know something fun you can do to test someone's patience this afternoon? Just go wake them up from a blissful afternoon nap. See how that goes! But notice what Jesus does: He doesn't scold. He doesn't chew them out or chastise them for cutting his nap short. In another gospel we find that the disciples even question his character, saying, "Teacher, don't you even care that we're going to drown!" (Mark 4). Boy, nothing can get me more defensive or reactive or impatient than when my character is questioned. But did you see what Jesus does?

He wakes up – and after rebuking the wind and waves – The Sea of Galilee turns to glass. All is calm. And I imagine at this moment... Jesus looking outside the boat out on the calm water, taking a deep breath... maybe a yawn... and then turning his face back on his disciples... disciples just staring... and in that moment, the disciples probably feeling two things: (1) peace (like never before)... and (2) paralyzed (like never before). Sure they're no longer fearing for their lives anymore, but they're fearing this God-man standing in their boat! Some of them probably wanted to swim for shore!

And then, Jesus says, "You unbelieving imbeciles! You faithless fools! I'm done with you!" Starts throwing them overboard... No. No, he doesn't snap at them or throw them overboard. But he does ask them a question. Let's read it together:

25 "Where is your faith?"

Now, because you and I were not in the boat, we don't really know the tone or temperature behind Jesus' question. But Tim Keller's interpretation helped me here:

"Jesus didn't say, 'You have no faith.' He said, 'Where is your faith?' In other words, they had it, but it wasn't in Him."— Tim Keller, Jesus the King

Jesus isn't simply saying, "You got no faith" or "You need more faith," but rather, "Your faith went to the wrong thing." The disciple's faith went to the boat, to their skills, to their own know-how... But when



the storm hit, those things couldn't save them. OR it's like – "Where'd that faith run off to? You have it. Why aren't you using it? Why aren't you putting it into practice?" It's like you've got an umbrella... why not open it up while the rain is coming down on your head?

For some of us this morning...that's you: You have faith. You know Jesus, and you are known by Jesus... but the question is before you right now – "Where is your faith?" As you continue to battle with that same recurring sin that you just can't seem to shake, or maybe the storm is hitting your marriage right now and you're not sure it's gonna make it, or perhaps the storm is your health that's declining... Whatever it is – Is your faith in the game? Or are you trying to do this on your own?

For others in this room...you're actually in a different spot: You don't know Jesus yet. But guess what? He's in your boat! And he's asking you the same question. Friend, if that's you this morning, I want you to know: Jesus went through the ultimate storm - the cross - to calm the storm of sin and death forever. And he rose again to offer you peace, both for this life that you are living now and for when this life comes to an end. So I ask you: where is your faith? May it be Jesus. Come to him. Trust him with your life. He loves you.

Two things I want to leave you with:

Jesus' patience is not the absence of challenge – It's the timing of love. Did you notice how Jesus did not ask the faith question until after the storm was still? Why? Because good teachers know that timing matters! Parents – you know this, don't you? Parents of little ones (when they're on their A-game) know that you don't want to correct your child when they're in the middle of their panic attack. But you calm them first. You hold them. You might even help them take deep breaths... Then you speak. Right parents? (OK, mom's might know this better than dads, but still. The principle applies!) Patience is not the absence of challenge, but the timing of love.

Another example: I know an older woman here at First Pres who has been married to her husband for over 60 years. The husband started showing signs of dementia. Conversations started being repeated. Keys were misplaced. One day, he got lost walking just two blocks from home. This dear wife didn't deny the challenge... she knew it was real, she knew it was hard. But each morning, she'd patiently laid out his clothes. She labeled doors and drawers with sticky notes. She told him the same stories five, six, seven times – smiling as if it were the first. Patience – not the absence of challenge, but the timing of love.

Now, you might be saying – "Gosh. All this talk on patience. I've got a long way to go. This brings me to the last thing...

Jesus' patience isn't just for the moment – it's for the miles ahead.

At first, I kinda thought ending the sermon at verse 25 made the most sense... "In fear and amazement, they asked one another, 'Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.'" Curtain falls right there. In fact most Bibles have the break right there. But I think verse 26 belongs with this section... take a look:

26 They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee.

Jesus doesn't stop the journey. He keeps going. He told them that he wanted to go across the lake, and that's just what they did together. \He brings them to the other side—literally and spiritually. They've only begun to grasp his power. But He's not done with them.

And you know what – my fellow bamboo trees - He's not done with you either.

As we close, I'd like to invite you to close your eyes, to sit silently, and allow the Holy Spirit to bring a fresh vision of Jesus' face to you. Can we do that? \*Adam/Chris is going to play lightly... and with your eyes closed and your heart aimed upward...I want you to just gaze upon the face of your Lord Jesus who loves you. Can you envision him? He's looking at you... not with furrowed brow, not with a look of disappointment, but with a smiling of and shining down on you? The perfect patience of God is in this face. This man, who went to the cross for your life does not demand instant maturity from you - but he's walking with you, he's teaching you, he's even waiting for you to bring your faith forward. If that storm is hitting in your life right now, remember this man who sleeps in the boat - not out of indifference but out of sovereign peace. Remember this man, who wakes up to bring calm, not condemnation. Remember The One who does question you with "Where is your faith?" – but not to shame, but to shape you to look more like Him for the mission and for the miles that are just ahead.

Receive the patience of God over your life this morning, even now as we join our voices to sing this together...

Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full in his wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of his glory and grace