

## **Jesus was in the Boat....with Me!**

I enjoy going out on the water, especially if I get to get a chance to go sailing! I find the sea so peaceful and relaxing and I could get lost out there. So when my ex-boyfriend, Joe, invited me to go out on his small boat, I jumped at the chance. Although we were not dating that long I trusted him and thought he would be a good sailor.

So, we started out on a perfectly clear Miami day. The sun was shining brightly, it was warm as always, the blue skies had puffs of white clouds and the water was glistening when we departed. Joe decided to go on a new route that day. He felt adventurous about the Miami Keys, where the water is more shallow than most. Well, it was not long before we hit a sandbar and got stuck! I started to laugh but he got all upset, embarrassed and exasperated as he was “gunning” his motor and the boat was not moving! After awhile, it was not so funny anymore. Joe then said that before the engine gets overheated, “WE” need to jump into the water and push the boat!. Well, I was not overly thrilled with this and expressed my discomfort, but had no choice to get in the water and help. Luckily, I had beach shoes on, because the tiny little fish were in schools and the wild reeds and blades of grassy moss were covering the bottom! It all still felt kind of slimy to me. No one else was around to help and thank God we got it moving.

So, we continued on our journey and found a cove to have a swim and picnic in. I was beginning to really enjoy myself, but then noticed the dark clouds were rolling in quite fast! This happens a lot in Miami and the weather can change in 5 minutes! I said something to Joe, but he was not concerned. “Don’t worry” he said, it will pass...but it didn’t. Then fifteen minutes later he said “we better head back”. I was thrilled as he was in charge and did not want to “nag” him.

Out of the blue, it started pouring rain and of course we had no cover on his boat. It was a small one, but in the heat, I did not mind. What did start to bother me was the lightning that I saw in the distance. The calm seas got rough and windy and we were being rocked. The streaks of lightning were getting closer and I was so nervous and frightened. I started to pray silently as the motor then died. It just died and we were drifting further away from the shoreline. Joe stood up and kept trying over and over and I could see his hands were sweating and he was nervous.

I encouraged him to keep going and after 10 minutes we received a miracle and it started!!! I was even praying out loud at this point and Joe looked at me perplexed, not being a man of faith. He said if it works, keep doing it! “Praise the Lord” I said and was shaking inside and out too. We were both drenched but happy.

Well, the seas started to calm shortly thereafter and the lightning was in the distance and the rains subsided. We made it back to the shore safely and I was never so happy to see land! But deep in my heart I knew Jesus heard me pray. Yes, Jesus was in the boat...and rescued me and I know for sure even when He is silent He is there...always there!

### **Matthew 14:31-33**

**“And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him and said to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’ and when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.**