

IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

By Rod

Maximus

.. and finally, here are this evening's Chariot Racing results.

In the Empire Premiership:

Roma United	4	Barbarian Rovers	3
Roman Villa	2	Corinthian Casuals	2
Athens Olympiakos	1	Egypt Alexandria	2
Caesar's Palace	2	Jerusalem Hotspur	0
Carthaginian Wanderers	3	Hibernian Rangers	4

You have been watching the X O'Clock News from the Roman Broadcasting Corporation with me, Maximus Burke. But now it's over to Augusta Wind for the Weather forecast.

Augusta

Thank you, Maximus.

Well, it looks as though we are in for a few days of settled, bright weather all over the Empire.

In the west there is a slight chance of rain but it should stay dry in the east.

Winds will be light to moderate.

Which leads me to say that we have had a phone call from a viewer, a Mrs Trellis of Galilee, who says that she has heard that there is going to be a hurricane in that area.

I would just like to say that this is not true. There is no chance whatsoever of

Maximus

We interrupt the weather forecast with news just in.

Reports are reaching us of a terrible storm on Lake Galilee in Israel. Details are still unclear but eyewitnesses say that this flash storm is one of the worst to hit the area since records began.

A group of fishermen with a local preacher, Jesus of Nazareth, are out on the lake. It is not yet known if there are any casualties.

[Pause, touch imaginary earpiece.]

Er, we are now able to go over to our Middle-east correspondent, Kate Adie, who is on the scene.

Kate, what can you tell us?

Kate

Well. Maximus, the most extraordinary things have been happening here.

The storm, one of the worst ever seen on the lake, is over.

Maximus

Over? Already? So was it just a storm in a teacup?

Kate

No, the storm was real enough and very violent.

Maximus

But what of Jesus and the fishermen? Have you any news?

Kate

Indeed I have, Maximus!
By some miracle they are all safe.
And in fact, we can now talk to some of the fishermen.

[To fishermen]

You were all on the lake I believe?

All

We were.

Kate

Can you tell us what happened?

Peter

Well, it was lovely and calm. Perfect gentle sailing.
Jesus was exhausted so he soon fell asleep.
Then the weather closed in.
I've never seen anything like it!

John

The wind was amazing and the thunder was deafening!
The boat began to fill with water.
In all my years as a fisherman I've never seen anything like it!

Andrew

We were terrified. I was sure we were going to sink.
I've never seen anything like it!

Kate

So, to summarise: you've never seen anything like it?

All

That's right. We've never seen anything like it. *[They nod together in agreement]*

Kate

And what was Jesus doing all this time?

Peter

That's the amazing thing.

John

He was asleep!

Andrew

Yeah, the boat was rolling and pitching but he was fast asleep.

Peter

We were so afraid that we shook him and screamed, “Jesus, don’t you care that we are all going to die?”

That woke him up alright but he just stood up.

James

That was incredible. It was so wild that we were clinging on for dear life on our hands and knees at the bottom of the boat – but he stood up.

Peter

Then he ordered the wind to be still and the waves to be calm.

Kate

You say, “he ordered them”?

Peter

Yes.

Kate

What happened next?

Peter

The storm stopped. Just like that – it stopped.

Kate

Did Jesus give any explanation. Did he say how he did this?

Peter

No, he just looked at us and quietly said, “Why were you so afraid? Don’t you have any faith?”

Kate

Thank you, Peter. Thank you everyone.

Well, there we have it. This is - Kate Adie – Astonished - RBC news -Lake Galilee
- handing you back to the studio in Rome.

Maximus

Thank you Kate.

One is left wondering, “Who is this man, Jesus? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”

If you want to consider that question further then why not switch over to RBC2 for Newsnight with Jeremy Paxromanus.

But from me, Maximus Burke, at the X O’Clock news its “Goodnight!”