

Jesus Calms The Sea

Luke 8:22-25

Introduction: This account is recorded in **Matthew 8:23-27** and **Mark 4:35-41**. Mark tells us that this happened in the evening (**Mk. 4:35**). Jesus and His disciples were in the area near Capernaum (**Matt. 8:5**). Capernaum was located on the middle-north side of the Sea of Galilee (AKA Lake of Genessaret). Capernaum was the base of the bulk of Jesus' ministry.

There are a few things we can learn from the event that will be very beneficial to us.

I. Jesus And His Disciples Got Into A Boat (v. 22).

- A.** The intention was to go to the other side of the lake (sea).
 - 1.** A number of the disciples, being fisherman, were experienced sailors.
 - 2.** They eventually end up in the **"country of the Gadarenes" (Lk. 8:26)**. This was on the middle-coast. It was a distance of 3-5 miles.
- B.** Jesus got along with His disciples.
 - 1.** He could get into a boat and travel with them.
 - 2.** Some folks, even brethren, don't get along well enough to do something similar.
 - 3.** Not everyone got along with Jesus (Pharisees, scribes, lawyers, etc.).
 - 4.** Many verses encourage us to get along.
 - a.** Be like-minded (**Rom. 15:5; 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil. 2:1-4**).
 - b.** Be kind (**Eph. 4:31-32; Col. 3:12-13**).

II. Jesus Could Sleep Through The Storm (v. 23).

- A.** This **"boat"** (Grk. "ship") was large enough to accommodate all of them.
 - 1.** It could make a trip of this distance across open water.
 - 2.** Jesus was **"in the stern, asleep on a pillow" (Mk. 4:38)**.
- B.** This storm rose very rapidly.
 - 1.** The Sea of Galilee lies about 700 feet below sea level and is surrounded by mountains. Cool air descends very quickly in the evenings from the mountains. When it meets the warm, moist air rising up, violent storms occur.
 - 2.** The NKJV describes this storm as a **"windstorm."** This is from the Greek LAILAPS which means "whirlwind." Likely this refers to cyclonic activity, perhaps even a waterspout!
 - a.** Notice word **"great" (Matt. 8:24)**.
 - b.** Notice also word **"tempest" (Matt. 8:24)**. This word means "shaking" (Greek SEISMOS) and usually refers to earthquakes!
 - c.** These experienced hardened sailors were fearful! They were not the kind to be alarmists. This storm was very fierce.
 - 3.** The ship began taking on water and is danger of sinking
- C.** Jesus slept through it all.
 - 1.** Disciples, not storm, woke Him (**v. 24a**).
 - 2.** Jesus had trust in God.
 - a.** **Psalm 107:23ff** is an amazing portion of Scripture. Yet, it shows God is in control of nature even at times like these.

- b. When we speak of “Laws of nature, “ remember that they are God’s laws.
- c. Jesus knew this, believed this and acted accordingly.
- 3. Jesus exhibited the **“peace that passes understanding” (Phil. 4:7).**
- 4. We need calmness, to be reminded that many a trial will soon pass.

III. Jesus Had Power Over Nature (v. 24b).

- A. Jesus **“rebuked the wind and the raging of the water.”** Mark adds His words— **“Peace, be still” (Mk. 4:38).**
 - 1. Tough, hardened sailors turn to a carpenter for help.
 - 2. They themselves were helpless to do anything.
- B. Notice other instances of His power (in Luke).
 - 1. Cast out demons **(4:31-37, 41).**
 - 2. Several healings **(4:38-40; 5:12-26; 6:6-11; 7:1-10).**
 - 3. Raised the dead **(7:11-17).**
- C. This is only involving the raw strength of nature. The end of this was sudden and unusual, giving further impetus to the power of Christ.
[More on this in conclusion]

IV. Faith Is Proven When Times Get Hard (v. 25a).

- A. Disciples are rebuked also.
 - 1. Jesus had said, **“Let us cross over to the other side of the lake.”**
 - 2. He didn’t say, **“Let us go out into the middle of the lake and drown!”**
 - 3. They had panicked. Notice cries (different men saying different things):
 - a. **“Lord save us! We are perishing!” (Matthew).**
 - b. **“Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” (Mark).**
 - c. **“Master, Master, we are perishing!” (Luke).**
 - 4. Where was trust? **“O you of little faith” (Matt. 8:26).**
- B. Learning from mistakes.
 - 1. **“People do not learn faith from a lecture; faith is learned in the laboratory of life” (Chumbley, p. 162).**
 - 2. Remember, diamonds are a product of tremendous pressure.
 - 3. Their fear had caused this and they knew it.
 - a. They had learned a hard lesson.
 - b. It would come in handy at a later time.

Conclusion: These disciples were all tremendously impressed to the point of being stunned and bewildered by an amazing turn of events. They ask **“Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!” (v. 25b).** Fishermen can mend nets, carpenters can patch a roof, mothers can calm a crying child, etc. However, we all talk about the weather, but doing anything about it is out of our hands. One who could do something like this must be the Son of God. This is the unspoken answer.

Will you believe in Him and obey Him? This is what He asks you to do **(Mk. 16:16).**