

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

A Message of Hope and Fulfillment For Those Longing For God

Lessons From The Storm

Luke 8: 22-25

In the remainder of Luke 8 Jesus does four significant miracles. They are, at first glance, fairly straightforward: a storm is stopped, a demonized man is delivered, a woman is healed, and another is raised from the dead. Though powerful in themselves, to people of faith familiar with the Scriptures they pose no great obstacle. So why do the Gospel writers belabor them? There is more than meets the eye and though tempting to pass over quickly, we must pause to ponder—they are filled with truth on many levels.

I. A Storm at Sea

- A. The narrative is direct: Jesus wants to go to the other side of the lake and, being tired, He falls asleep in the boat. A storm arises that threatens the ship. The frightened disciples wake Him in fear and He, astonishingly, quiets the storm and saves the ship and their lives.
- B. "Act of God" or something else?
 - 1. Our attitude is that every destructive thing that happens in nature is an act of God.
 - 2. But why would God send a storm that would destroy His Son and all the disciples?
 - 3. Is nature an independent force or influenced by satanic powers?
 - a. consider the nature of the event
 - b. consider the destiny on the other side
 - c. consider the passengers on the ship
- C. How can Jesus sleep through a sudden, raging torrent?
 - 1. Confidence in the crisis of the moment is often based on a knowledge of the mission, which is, in turn, based on intimacy with God.
 - 2. Jesus clearly implies that the disciples should have shared this confidence expressed as faith in God for their survival.

II. The Deity of Jesus Christ

- A. The authority of the Word of God—Jesus merely speaks to the storm and instantly the seas are calm and the wind is quiet.
- B. The Divine rebuke—with authority Jesus chastises His disciples for lack faith, some of whom are experienced fishermen and sailors who are clearly spooked by the suddenness of the fierce storm and the reality of inevitable sinking.
- C. The disciples (and others in His and other boats?) are terrified with a new kind of fear and awe, somewhat like Isaiah in his vision of God.

III. The Humanity of Jesus

- A. The need for quiet, rest, and spiritual refreshment—Mark informs us that Jesus left the crowd (Mk.4:36), and this wasn't the first time.
 - 1. Jesus had need for personal time, prayer, refreshment despite the needy and pressing crowds. (The Messiah did not have a "Messianic complex!")
 - 2. He fell asleep on the cushion in the stern. His sleep was not only the sleep of confident faith but physical exhaustion (*it was the stern!*).
 - 3. He lived by the Father's pace, not for the demands of people (Jn.5:19)

Now on one of those days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out. But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they began to be swamped and to be in danger. They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?"

Luke 8: 22-25

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What possible sources/forces can be behind destructive natural phenomenon?
2. Why could Jesus sleep peacefully in the stern of the boat despite being swamped?
3. What other miracles in the Gospels demonstrate Jesus' authority over nature and the elements?
4. Why did Jesus expect the disciples to have faith in such an unusual circumstance?
5. How does this account give you confidence when assaulted by life's crises?
6. What did you learn about Jesus' humanity and the implications for you?

NOTES

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Mark 4: 35-41