

The Miracles Of Jesus

Calming The Storm

(Mt 8:18-27)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greetings...
2. Series of lessons covering “The Miracles Of Jesus.”
 - a. Last week we looked at the healing of “The Paralytic.”
 - i. **Lk 5:17-26** ^{“1}
 - b. This week we will be examining “Calming The Storm.”
 - i. **Mt 8:18-27; Mk 4:35-41; Lk 8:22-25**
3. The parallel passages of this miracle each give information that the others do not. Here are “some” of the information extras.
 - a. Matthew gives us the reason for why Jesus wanted to get into a boat and go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.
 - b. Mark shows us that Jesus & His disciples were not alone on the lake.
 - c. Luke supplies us with extra geographical information.
4. With this in mind let us examine our first point and look into what we know contextually concerning this miracle.

I. Jesus Calms The Storm

- A. Jesus tells His disciples to get ready the boat
 1. Jesus had been teaching all day long to a large crowd.
 - i. It was evening now and Jesus was exhausted we will see.
- B. Jesus speaks to two before departing
 1. A scribe said “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”
 - i. Jesus responded, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.”
 2. A disciple says “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.”
 - i. Jesus responds “Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.”
- C. Jesus & His disciples set sail
 1. Mark’s account tells us that “other boats were with Him.”
 - i. We can see the intense drain Jesus was under with people even following Him once he got into a boat to leave.
- D. Jesus finds rest in the stern on a cushion
 1. It is hard to imagine the physical toll Jesus was under constantly.
 - i. I have done many jobs in my life.
 - a. I worked in the cold and heat 60 to 70 hours a week for more than eight years.
 - b. I work 100 to 108 hours a week for almost two years straight managing and running a restaurant.
 - c. Also many jobs before and after.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- ii. I have never been more exhausted at the end of a week like I am at the end of Sunday after teaching a class and preaching two sermons.
 - a. I consider my week Monday through Sunday.
 - 2. Knowing this imagine how tired Jesus was after teaching all day each day.
 - E. A storm arose on the lake
 - 1. Luke points out that it “came down on the lake.”
 - i. J.W. McGarvey’s book “Lands of the Bible” he writes, “We were nearly opposite Tiberias, a south wind had arisen of sufficient force to help us on our way if our bow were turned westward, and I told the boatmen that they might cross to Tiberias. I had scarcely uttered the word when they all began to gaze at the western sky and chatter with one another in Arabic in a most excited manner. In their excitement they dropped their oars, and the boat began to drift before the wind. I inquired of the dragoman the cause of the excitement, and he said they saw signs of a coming storm from the west which alarmed them, and they thought it necessary to pull as fast as possible for the northeastern shore. We felt annoyed at the thought of thus turning at a right angle to our intended course when the sun was getting low, and it appeared to us that their fears were ill grounded. One of our party began to remonstrate, but I remembered how treacherous the winds had been to others on this lake, and I insisted that the judgment of the boatman should prevail. It was well that we so decided, for before we had gone one-third of the way across we were in the midst of a storm fully as severe as our boat could safely ride. By skillful management of the boat we succeeded in reaching, about sunset, the little bay above the ruins of Bethsaida, as far from our camp as we were at noon. There we anchored for a short time, and the boatmen stopped a leak which had stared in the side of the boat.”²
 - a. Notice how quick and fierce it can be.
 - 2. The storm’s waves crashed against the boat and was filling it with water.
- F. Frantic, the disciples wake Jesus
 - 1. They woke Jesus and said...
 - i. “Master, Master, we are perishing!”
 - ii. “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”
 - iii. “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.”
 - a. It was no doubt chaotic.
- G. Jesus calms the storm & His disciples
 - 1. It is interesting that Jesus rebuked both the winds and the sea or raging waves.
 - i. We are not told what Jesus said to the wind but we are told what He said to the sea.
 - a. Peace! Be still!
 - ii. After the winds stopped it was still necessary for the sea to become calm.
 - a. Hence Jesus rebuked both the wind and the sea.

² Lands of the Bible by McGarvey, J.W. pg. 519

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2. It is interesting that Jesus also responded in three different ways as well.
 - i. Before Jesus rebuked the wind and sea He said...
 - a. "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?"
 - ii. After the sea and wind were calm He said...
 - a. "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"
 - b. "Where is your faith."
 - iii. There were three different statements made to Christ & Christ made three different statements.
 - a. Not sure if there is any significance to that.

II. The Lessons

A. We must count the cost of following Christ

1. The scribe had to count the cost of following Jesus.
 - i. Jesus does not reject this man's offer nor does He refuse the man the opportunity to follow Him.
 - ii. Jesus wanted the man to ask himself if he was willing to follow Jesus even when difficulties arise.
 - iii. Are "we" willing to follow Jesus during difficult times?
 - a. Are we willing, everyday, to take up our cross.
 1. **Lk 9:23; Mt 5:11**
2. The disciple had to count the cost of obeying Jesus above all others.
 - i. Jesus did not have a problem with people burying their loved ones.
 - a. He didn't go quickly to keep Mary from burying Lazarus.
 - b. He didn't stop John the Baptizer's family or disciples from burying him.
 - ii. Jesus had a problem with the statement "Lord I will but..." after he had already told this man to "follow Him."
 - a. That very thought shows there were things more important to this man than Jesus.
 1. Luke's account shows us Jesus had already asked the man to follow Him do His will.
 - i. **Lk 9:59-60**
 - iii. Are we willing to follow Jesus and do His will no matter what?
 - a. People thought it was strange when I said from the pulpit a while back that I several times went to worship services when my wife went to the hospital in labor.
 1. Is that really any different than what Jesus asked this man to do?
 3. As children of God we have to count the cost of following Jesus and ask ourselves everyday "Am I really willing to be a disciple of Christ and put Him first above all?"

B. We must always evaluate our faith in God almighty

1. It seems like it is easier to "be faithful" when everything is going great.
 - i. It seems like it is much harder to stay faithful when everything is collapsing in around us.

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2. However that exact opposite is true
 - i. The reason people seemingly lose faith and fall apart when the sky is falling on them is because they were not really faithful beforehand.
3. Look at the disciple of Christ in our miracle account here.
 - i. They were willing to follow Him “wherever He went” remember.
 - a. Yet as soon as the storm came they ones with little to no faith.
4. If we want to be the child of God that can wear the name Christian than we must be established in “the faith.”
 - i. This is done by being rooted in Jesus.
 - ii. This is done by being built up in Jesus.
 - a. **Co 2:7**

CONCLUSION

1. Brethren, as children of God we must constantly count the cost and evaluate whether or not we are worthy of wearing the name Christian.
 - a. We must make sure we are rooted and built up in Jesus putting first Him and His kingdom.
2. Question: Are you actively counting the cost and evaluating your faith?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent and confess your transgression before God so He can forgive you and bear fruit of repentance by dedicating the rest of your life for Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required for you to become a child of God.
 - i. Hear/Study God’s Word **Rom 10:17**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Heb 11:6; Jn 3:16; Jn 14:15**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:3**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32**
 - v. Obey The Gospel **I Cor 15:1-4; Rom 6:3-5**