

The Power of the King—Part 5

Matthew 8:23-27

I. The Journey Begins (v. 23)

- a. Capernaum was on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee and **country of the Gadarenes** was most likely on the eastern shore near a town called Gergesa or Kursi.
- b. It would have most likely been a small fishing boat, like the one discovered buried in the mud of the Dead Sea in 1986.
- c. Jesus' disciples were willing to follow Him wherever He went regardless of the danger.

II. The Storm Arises (v. 24)

- a. The Sea of Galilee sits in a bowl-shaped basin 700 feet below sea level and it is flanked by cliffs, hills, and the 9000 foot tall Mount Herman
 - i. Western warm wind from the Mediterranean mixes with the cold air from the north and creates fierce flash storms.
- b. **storm = seismos (σεισμός)** = "a violent action of the surface," "an earthquake" (cf. Matt. 24:7; 27:54; 28:2; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11; Acts 16:26; Rev. 6:12; 8:5; 11:13, 19; 16:18)
- c. The Synoptic ("same") Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke
 - i. Matthew 40's A.D.
 - ii. Luke 50's A.D. (under the authority of Paul)
 - iii. Mark 60's A.D. (transcribed from Peter's sermons)
 1. The small detail differences actually prove the authenticity of eyewitness accounts.

III. The Disciples Panic (v. 25)

- a. Several of these men were professional fishermen who knew how to handle a boat in a storm, but they eventually ran out of human solutions and cried out **Save us, Lord!**
- b. Sadly, we often only turn to God, when we are at the end of our proverbial rope.

IV. The Lord Responds (v. 26)

a. Jesus' Rebuke of the Disciples

- i. The disciples called Jesus Lord and thought He could save them, so they had some faith.
- ii. Jesus rebukes them for being **afraid** because they did not trust Him!
 1. **afraid = deilos (δειλός)** = "cowardly, afraid, timid"
 2. Their fear was a consequence of their **little faith**
- iii. Jesus could sleep, because He had complete trust and faith in the will and care of His Father.

b. Jesus' Rebuke of the Storm

- i. With just two Greek words, Jesus commands the wind and the waves: **"Hush, be still."** (Mark 4:39)
- ii. Unlike a normal storm, the wind and waves were IMMEDIATELY **calm!**
- iii. This is a display of the power of Yahweh (Ps. 89:8-9; cf. Ps. 29:3-4, 10; 65:5-7; 107:23-32; Job 38:8-11)

V. The Disciples Are Amazed (v. 27)

- a. The disciples are **amazed** because they've realized that no mere mortal man could have done what Jesus had just done!
 - i. They were in the presence of God! (cf. Job 42:5-6; Isa. 6:1-5; Dan. 10:8-9; Luke 5:8; Acts 9:4-8)
- b. And Jesus' display of the Power of the King of kings and the Lord of lords forced the disciples to ask: **What kind of a man is this?**