

Peter: Fisherman to Follower
WITNESS TO POWER

Thursday, October 15

Reading: Luke 8:22-56

Luke 8:24 *The disciples went and woke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25 "Where is your faith?" He asked His disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him."*

Jesus has chosen His Twelve apostles into whom He would pour His life and teachings (Luke 6:12-16). They were the ones who would spend their lives with Him and learn how to be like Him from their association. However, they still had much to learn. They did not understand Jesus' parables until He explained them (8:9ff) and they still had not fully grasped who Jesus was.

The Sea of Galilee is more than 600 feet below sea level and is surrounded by hills. When a strong wind blows down onto the sea it can become a virtual wind tunnel causing large waves and dangerous squalls. This must have been a particularly violent storm because many of Jesus' disciples had been fishermen on this sea and knew its storms and yet they were afraid for their lives. Meanwhile, Jesus was asleep in the boat. After a long day of teaching and healing, He was so exhausted that not even water filling the boat could wake Him.

Mark records that the disciples awake Jesus with the cry, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" Jesus rises and rebukes the waves and immediately there was a great calm. He then questions His disciples for their lack of faith. After all the miracles they had seen, they still did not understand and trust Him.

LESSON ONE: The disciples had not learned to trust Jesus through the storms. They wanted Jesus to take them away! Do you want Jesus to take away the problems of life instead of trusting Him through them?

LESSON TWO: Sometimes Jesus allows "storms" in our life to help grow our faith. Jesus never promised to take all our storms away, but He has promised to always "be in the boat" with us through the storms. No matter how high the waves may be or how bad the winds may blow our Savior is still Lord of both our "storms" and our "calms." What have you learned through the difficulties that have come into your life? How has your faith been strengthened during these times?

LESSON THREE: Peter would get a firsthand glimpse of Jesus' power when they reached shore and Jesus encounters and drives a legion of demons from a poor victim. He would also be one of the few witnesses to Jesus raising Jairus' daughter from the dead (only the parents, Peter, James, and John were allowed in the room). The storms, Satan's forces, and even death itself are in His control. How has Jesus revealed His power in your life? What lessons might you be able to share to help someone in their struggles?