



Catherine Smith

PEACE

One of my favorite Bible stories is found in the gospel of Matthew. Even though at first glance it might look like just a handful of sentences that can be read quickly, it is a story with wonderful encouragement for us as we look for peace in our lives. After a few days of teaching and preaching to the multitudes and performing many miracles of healing and driving out demons, Jesus gave the disciples orders to cross to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

“Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. Without warning, a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” He replied, “Oh you of little faith why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, “what kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!” Matthew 5: 23-29 NIV

I can so vividly picture the excitement that the new disciples must have had in their souls after several amazing days of hearing Jesus preach and witnessing the magnificent healings. As they settled into the fishing boat with Jesus, they must have been so full of peace and contentment knowing they were with the Messiah. After Jesus fell asleep, the furious storm rocked that boat and waves came over the side in ways that made even the four-former fisherman afraid! As they feared for their lives they woke up Jesus asking him to save their lives. Jesus’ response is so simple, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Of course, he doesn’t just say this and go back to sleep he reveals his power over nature and rebukes the wind and waves making it calm.

Many years ago, when I read this Bible story to my four-year-old daughter, Corissa, we talked about the amazing power of Jesus who could make sick people well, cast out demons and even control the wind. She looked at me with her big, hazel eyes and exclaim with childlike wonder, “I want to be able to do that, Momma!” I told her, “No honey. Only Jesus can do that.” The next day, was a warm but very windy day and Corissa went outside to play on her swing set in the fenced in yard. I was watching her from the kitchen window and noticed as she was swinging and pumping her feet, she was also yelling something. I ran outside to see what the problem was. I watched from a distance trying to figure out what she was yelling. As I got closer I could hear her yelling, “stooooooppp wiiiiinnnd!” I slowed her down and she says with a smile, “You’re right Momma, I can’t stop the wind, only Jesus can do that!”

How many times do we try to stop the winds of trouble from coming into our lives? We tend to be shocked when trouble enters our lives and sometimes we even convince ourselves we must have done something wrong to go through such a difficult time. This fretting and worrying robs us of our peace. Just like that day on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus is with us during the storms of life. He wants us to trust him more and remember his power and love for us. Jesus tells us, *“But see first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:33-34 NIV*

Dear Lord, Help me to know you and trust you more so that I can have peace when the storms in this life come my way. Increase my faith and confidence that You are in control of all things.