

Matthew 8:23-27 The Calming of the Storm

Introduction: Jesus had given orders for His disciples to prepare to leave Capernaum and go to the other shore of the Sea of Galilee. In this text we learn that they went by boat. Verse 23. Mark tells us that they could not all go in one boat. Some went in “other little ships.” It must have been a pleasant trip....until the weather got bad.

I. The great storm. Verse 24

- A. This storm was very severe.
 - 1. The boat was tossed to and fro and was taking on water and was in danger of sinking.
 - 2. The smaller ships were in even greater danger.
- B. Being saved and being a devoted disciple of the Lord does not prevent the storms of life from coming.
- C. Jesus was asleep.
 - 1. He had been extremely busy with little rest and now that He had a chance He rested.
 - 2. Even the tossing of the ship did not awaken Him.

II. The cry of distress. Verse 25

- A. The disciples awoke Jesus crying, “Lord, save us; we perish.”
- B. Some have suggested that they expected Him to help bail water.
 - 1. But they did not cry “Lord, help us.” They cried, Lord, save us.”
 - 2. Perhaps they expected Jesus to cry out to the Father.

III. The rebuke of the disciples. Verse 26

- A. Before Jesus rebuked the storm, He first rebuked the disciples.
 - 1. He asked, “Why are ye so fearful?”
 - 2. Did they not realize who He is and that God was watching over His son and that they were safe with Jesus in their ship?
 - 3. They were just as safe in the storm as they would have been in calm waters.
 - 4. They were just as safe before they awoke Him as they were after they awoke Him.
- B. Those words of rebuke still ring out from the pages of God's Book and speak loud and clear to us.
 - 1. Why are we so fearful when the storm of life beat upon us? (Not only snow storms, ice storms, wind storms, hail storms, floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes, but the troubles of life.)
 - 2. We have trusted Jesus to save our souls; why do we fail to trust Him when the troubles of life come?
 - 3. Even when things look so hopeless, they are not hopeless because of the power of God.
 - 4. Why can we not realize that the Lord does not have to stop the storm in order to save us? He can see us through the storm.

IV. The miraculous calming of the sea. Verse 26

- A. Whatever His disciples expected Him to do they were not expecting what He did do.
- B. He did not pray to the Father; He spoke directly to the winds and the waves and commanded, “Peace, be still.” Mark 4:39
- C. Immediately the winds obeyed.
- D. The winds and waves did not have ears to hear, but the disciples did. (They heard, they saw, and they marveled. Verse 27)

Conclusion:

1. Christian friend, is it not great to be able in the storms of life to cry out, "Lord, save us: we perish"? Even right now cry out to Him...although your faith be weak!
2. Lost sinner friend, your danger is far greater! It is the danger of hell fire. You can cry out right now, "Lord, save me; I perish."
3. Since even the winds and the sea obey Him, how much more ought we who have been saved by Him?

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