

## Jesus – The King of the Jews #20

# Calming the Storm

Matt 8:22-27

### Introduction:

1. The supreme proof of Jesus' divinity and messiahship was His absolute authority and power over everything on earth.
2. We saw Jesus' power over disease
  - a. He cleansed the leper in vs 1-4
  - b. He cured the centurion's servant in vs 5-13
  - c. He healed Peter's mother-in-law – vs 14-18
3. Here we see Jesus' power over the natural
4. At creation God ordained man to be king of the earth, to "rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" ([Gen. 1:26](#)).
  - a. Had Adam and Eve not sinned then the earth would have remained without sin, pain, disease, hatred, hardship, sorrow, disaster
  - b. There would only be holiness, righteousness, truth, peace, love, beauty
5. As we look at mankind and the present earth, however, it is glaringly obvious that man himself could never effect such changes.
  - a. Man cannot solve the natural problems of environment, weather, droughts, famines, disease, and sickness.
  - b. Even less can man solve his moral and spiritual problems.
  - c. As we become more advanced in psychology, sociology, criminology, and diplomacy, we also become more engulfed in psychological disorders, sociological problems, and in crime and war.
6. The more man delves into the universe, the more amazing and awesome the wonder of creation becomes.
  - a. Telescopes can take us some four billion light years—about twenty-five sextillion miles—into space, and yet we have not come near the edge of the universe.
  - b. The earth spins on its axis at a thousand miles an hour at the equator, travels in a five-hundred-eighty-million-mile orbit around the sun at about a thousand miles a minute, and, with the rest of its solar system, careens through space at an even faster speed in an orbit that would take billions of years to complete.
  - c. The energy of the sun has been estimated to be equivalent to five-hundred-million-million-billion horsepower.
  - d. There are at least one-hundred-thousand-million other suns in our galaxy, most of them larger than ours.
  - e. God is also creator and sustainer of the microcosm. A teaspoon of water contains a million-billion-trillion atoms, which themselves are composed of still smaller particles of energy.
7. Jesus Christ "upholds all things by the word of His power" ([Heb. 1:3](#))
  - a. He energizes every atom and every atomic particle and subparticle
  - b. That is the power of our God and Savior!
7. Jesus Christ came into the world and demonstrated that power, to show for all who would see it that He was indeed the Son of God.
  - a. The promised Messiah and King had power to redeem man from sin and to give him renewed sovereignty over a renewed earth.
  - b. Matthew has already shown that Jesus had the right genealogy, the right birth, the right baptism, the right success over temptation, and the right message.
8. The miracles were foretastes of kingdom power.
  - a. When Jesus healed diseases and restored broken bodies, He previewed the kingdom, in which there would be no sickness or deformity.
  - b. When He cast out demons, He previewed the kingdom, in which there would be no demonic activity.
  - c. When He raised the dead, He previewed the kingdom, in which there would be no death.

## I. THE PARTICULARS – VS 23-24

### A. The Sailing – vs 23

23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

1. The prompting of the sailing – vs 23 – “He was entered”
  - a) Christ was the One Who prompted the voyage across the sea
  - b) Experiencing this storm was not a result of delinquency, for Christ had ordered the trip.
2. The people in the sailing – vs 23 - "His disciples followed him"
  - a) It shows their devotion to Christ
    - (1) They wanted to be with Him
    - (2) If He was going across the sea, they were going with Him.
  - b) It shows dedication for Christ
    - (1) Going with Christ meant they would be working hard in rowing.
    - (2) Following Christ is not a picnic. It often entails hard work.
    - (3) But dedication will follow Christ regardless of the work involved.
  - c) Some followed Christ because they were curious
    - (1) They wanted to find out what he was like
    - (2) They were fascinated and intrigued by what He said and did
    - (3) They did not trust Him as Lord and Savior
  - d) Some were intellectually convinced and followed Christ
    - (1) Nicodemus came at night “We know that you have come from God...”
    - (2) He was not yet committed to Christ and had no spiritual relationship
  - e) Some disciples were secret followers
    - (1) Joseph of Arimathea was such a clandestine follower of Christ
    - (2) Later he asked Pilate for permission to bury Christ’s body proclaiming his allegiance to Christ
  - f) Some disciples were true and open believers
    - (1) They were publicly and permanently committed to Christ
    - (2) This was a small group
3. The place in the sailing
  - a) The Sea of Galilee is located in the northern part of Palestine.
  - b) It is pear shaped being 12 mi by 6 mi at its extreme dimensions
  - c) In NT times, the area around the lake was highly populated and many small towns were on the shores or near the sea.
  - d) Because of the hills surrounding the lake, which produce wind tunnels, it is prone to violent storms which come upon it quickly.

### B. The Storm – vs 24

- Sea of G was prone to violent storms because of the hills surrounding it forming wind tunnels, which could stir up a storm in a hurry,
1. The tempest on the sea – vs 24

24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

    - a) "Great tempest" describes a very severe storm on the Sea
    - b) "great" = mega
    - c) "tempest" is seismos which means a great shaking
    - d) "we perish" also emphasized the greatness of the storm, for they were veterans of the Sea of Galilee
    - e) If they concluded they were going to perish, it must have been a tremendous storm.
  2. The threat to the ship – vs 24 - "covered with the waves"
    - a) This says the ship was experiencing real trouble.
    - b) The threat of the ship sinking was very great.
    - c) Waves going over the boat means water in the boat which predicts a sinking boat if things do not change.
  3. The tranquility in the sleeping – vs 24 – “he was asleep”
    - a) This is amazing
    - b) Here was a great storm which tossed the boat around
    - c) The boat was taking on a lot of water, Christ would be getting wet; yet He slept on.
    - d) This is the only place in the Bible that records Christ sleeping.
    - e) The unusual sleeping demonstrates heavenly tranquility
    - f) Things on the earth may appear to be getting out of hand, but God is not panicking.
    - g) He has things in His control.

BYZ Matthew 8:23 Καὶ ἐμβάντι αὐτῶ εἰς τὸ πλοῖον, ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῶ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ.

BYZ Matthew 8:24 Καὶ ἰδοῦ, σεισμὸς μέγας ἐγένετο ἐν τῇ θαλάσῃ, ὥστε τὸ πλοῖον καλύπτεσθαι ὑπὸ τῶν κυμάτων· αὐτὸς δὲ ἐκάθευδεν.  
σεισμὸς noun nms from σεισμός - a series of violent movements *shaking, agitation*; of the earth *earthquake* (MT 24.7); of the sea when high winds cause huge waves *tempest, (violent) storm* (MT 8.24)  
Used 14x in GNT - translated "earthquake" 13x and "tempest" 1x  
But he was asleep (autos de ekatheuden). Imperfect, was sleeping

## II. THE PANIC – VS 25-26a

### A. The Request – vs 25

25 And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

- The storm eventually caused great fear in the disciples causing them to beg Christ for help.
- 1. The problem for the supplication – vs 25 – “awoke him”
  - a) *Other Gospels note that the disciples were upset that Christ was sleeping and that indicated He did not care about them*
  - b) *In their trials mankind often accuses God of not caring.*
- 2. The Person for the supplication – vs 25 – “to him”
  - a) *The disciples went to the right person for help.*
  - b) *In fact no One could help better than Christ.*
  - c) *Too often folk seek help from sources other than God when they are experiencing great troubles and trials.*
- 3. The petition for the supplication – vs 25 – “Lord, save us”
  - a) *This was a short prayer, but it got the job done.*
  - b) *The story is told of a hardened old sea captain who was quite vocal about his atheism. One night during a storm he was washed overboard and his men heard him crying out to God for help. When he was finally rescued one of the men asked him, "I thought you didn't believe in God." He replied, "Well, if there isn't a God, there ought to be one for times like this." Many people turn to the Lord only when every other resource has been exhausted. When sickness, death, loss of job, or some other tragedy comes, they cry out to God much as the disciples did to Jesus.*
  - c) *We do not need long prayers to get through to God.*
  - d) *This prayer is one that can also be made regarding the saving of one's soul.*
  - e) *"Perish" is the result of sin, but Christ can save anyone who calls upon Him for salvation ([Romans 10:13](#)).*

### B. The Rebuke – vs 26

26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?

- 1. Rebuking of their fear - "Why are ye fearful?"
  - a) *"fearful" - denotes cowardice and timidity and is never used in a good sense" (Vine).*
  - b) *The disciples' fear with Christ on board was an insult to Him.*
- 2. The disciples must have wondered why Jesus asked such a question
- 3. The question in their minds was “Why was Jesus not afraid?”
  - a) *It was the middle of the night*
  - b) *The raging storm was about to sink the ship and wash them overboard*
  - c) *Jesus' calmness so perplexed the disciples they accused him of insensitivity – “Don't you care that we are perishing?” – Mk 4:38*
- 4. Rebuking of their faith - "O ye of little faith."
  - a) *Christ's evaluation of their faith was doubtless not what they thought about their faith.*
  - b) *We have a tendency to evaluate ourselves much higher than God*
  - c) *They probably thought they had great faith, but Christ says they had "little faith."*
  - d) *"Don't you believe in Me and in My power?" He asked, in effect.*
  - e) *"Haven't you seen enough of My power and experienced enough of My love to know you are perfectly safe with Me?"*
  - f) *You have seen Me perform miracle upon miracle, even on behalf of those who never trusted in Me or even bothered to thank Me.*
  - g) *You have seen My power and My compassion, and you should know that because of My power I can help you and that because of My compassion I will help you.*
  - h) *Even if you should drown, don't you know that would mean instant heaven?*
  - i) *What, then, do you have to be worried about?"*

**YZ Matthew 8:25** Καὶ προσελθόντες οἱ μαθηταὶ ἤγειραν αὐτόν, λέγοντες, Κύριε, σῶσον ἡμᾶς, ἀπολλύμεθα.

Save, Lord; we perish (Kurie, sōson, apollumetha). More exactly, "Lord, save us at once (aorist), we are perishing (present linear)."

**BYZ Matthew 8:26** Καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς, Τί δειλοὶ ἐστε, ὀλιγόπιστοι; Τότε ἐγεροθεὶς ἐπετίμησεν τοῖς ἀνέμοις καὶ τῇ θαλάσῃ, καὶ ἐγένετο γαλήνη μεγάλη.

**ἐπετίμησεν** verb ind aor act 3ps from **ἐπιτιμάω** - strictly *appraise* someone, assess a penalty, *charge* someone as being *blamable*; hence *rebuke*, *reprove* (JU 9); *warn*, *strongly admonish*, *threaten* (MK 3.12; 8.30)

### III. THE POWER – VS 26b

#### A. Command Issued – vs 26

26b ... Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

- Not only were the disciples rebuked but here we note that the storm was also rebuked.
  1. Other Gospel accounts indicate that a command was also involved— Christ ordered the storm to stop.
  2. The emphasis here is on the Word of God in the miracle.
  3. Christ spoke and it was done.
  4. Creation was done by the word of God ([Psalm 33:6](#)).
  5. Let churches emphasize it more in their ministries, if they want to have an impact, a testimony, a true work of God.
  6. Too often the Word of God gets pushed into the background.

#### B. Calm Seen – vs 26

26b ... Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

- Christ stopped the storm. No one could do a better job of stopping the storm.
  1. The calm came instantly otherwise the ship would have gone down.
  2. Calm coming instantly certainly shows the power of Christ.
  3. But here the sea became calm instantly.
  4. This fact is another testimony of the Divine power of God in Jesus Christ. It is more proof for the claims of Christ.
  5. And it is excellent proof. Christ gave excellent proof again and again before men of Who He was.
  6. But many men then as now ignore the proofs and will not believe.

### IV. THE PORTENT – VS 27

27 But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

- The miracle was not done to entertain.
- It was done to educate the disciples.

#### A. The Marveling -- "**The men marvelled.**"

1. They were utterly amazed at this miracle.
2. It was no small miracle and greatly impressed them.
3. Mark reports that the disciples were afraid
  - a) *They were more afraid of the One who calmed the storm*
  - b) *Than they were of the storm itself*

#### B. The Learning

1. This is a rhetorical question which says, "Wow, what a man!"
2. The disciples were learning more and more about Christ, and now they have learned that He has power over creation.
  - a) *God's majesty is so overwhelming that when He displays Himself in even a small part of His glory men cannot stand in His presence.*
  - b) *These disciples suddenly realized that God was standing in the very boat with them, and they were terrified by His power and His holiness*
3. The discovery by the disciples of new truths about Christ from this miracle tells us another of the great purposes of these miracles, namely, they were to help those who witnessed the miracles to grow in their knowledge and understanding of Christ.
4. This attitude is not surprising, yet many who witnessed the miracles of Christ were not impressed.
5. We still have that problem today - Men are impressed with home runs, touchdowns, baskets and other like achievements but scorn such things as the marvelous Word of God, the salvation of souls, the power of God in creation.

BYZ **Matthew 8:27** Οἱ δὲ ἄνθρωποι ἐθαύμασαν, λέγοντες, Ποταπὸς ἐστὶν οὗτος, ὅτι καὶ οἱ ἄνεμοι καὶ ἡ θάλασσα ὑπακούουσιν αὐτῷ; ἐθαύμασαν, verb ind aor act 3pp from θαυμάζω -(1) intransitively; (a) as expressing human response when confronted by divine revelation in some form *wonder, be astonished, marvel* (MT 9.33); (b) with ὅτι following *be astonished or surprised that* (GA 1.6); (2) transitively; (a) *admire, wonder at* something (AC 7.31); (b) *be amazed or marvel at* someone (LU 7.9); (c) passive *be filled with wonder, be amazed* (RV 17.8)

Job 42:5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. 6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.  
Isa 6:1 ...I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.