

Luke 8:22-25
May 19, 2019

Open with Prayer

HOOK:

Q: Can fear and faith co-exist? [Let people engage]

Transition: Our last four lessons focused upon Jesus' teaching and preaching, but this new section will focus on His power. There are four miracle stories that follow in 8:22–25, 26–39, 40–48, 49–56 demonstrate Jesus' power and might over nature, demons, physical disease, and death respectively. Let's look at the first miracle and what the disciples learn from it.

V.22:

- One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out.

V.23:

- As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

V.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.

V.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."

Process Observations/Questions:

Q: What did you most like about this passage? What resonated with you? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you least like about this passage? [Let people engage]

Q: What did you find in this passage that you didn't understand? [Let people engage]

Q: What do we learn about Jesus in this passage? [Let people engage]

LOOK:

Faith must be tested before it can be trusted. It has well been said that faith is not believing in spite of circumstances; it is obeying in spite of feelings and consequences. The disciples looked around and saw danger and looked within and saw fear; but they failed to look up by faith and see God. Faith and fear cannot dwell together in the same heart.

Close in Prayer

Commentaries for Today's Lesson:

Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible Exposition Commentary* (Vol. 1, pp. 189–195). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Testing: Heeding God's Word (Luke 8:22–25)

By the time the Lord had finished giving “the Parables of the Kingdom” (Matt. 13:1–52), the disciples must have felt like postgraduate students in the School of Faith! They now understood mysteries that were hidden from the scribes and rabbis and even from the Old Testament prophets. What they did not realize (and we are so like them!) is that *faith must be tested before it can be trusted*. It is one thing to learn a new spiritual truth, but quite something else to practice that truth in the everyday experiences of life.

Satan does not care how much Bible truth we learn so long as we do not live it. Truth that is only in the head is purely academic and never will get into the heart until it is practiced by the will. “Doing the will of God from the heart” is what God wants from His children (Eph. 6:6). Satan knows that academic truth is not dangerous, but *active* truth is.

Watch the Lord Jesus Christ as He meets four challenges to faith and comes forth the Victor. His people face these same challenges today and can also overcome by faith.

Dangerous circumstances (vv. 22–25). Jesus was weary from a long day of teaching and went to sleep as the ship left Capernaum for the opposite shore. But before He did, He gave them a word of command that was also a word of promise: they were going to the opposite shore. This word should have encouraged and strengthened the disciples during the storm, but their faith was still small (Matt. 8:26).

While our tour group was sailing from Tiberias to Capernaum, I asked our guide if he had even been in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. His eyes opened wide and he said, “Yes, and I hope it never happens to me again!” The situation is such that sudden squalls occur as winds from the mountains funnel to the lake located 600 feet below sea level. When the cold air and warm air meet in this natural basin, a storm is sure to develop.

The disciples were afraid, *but Jesus was not!* He kept on sleeping, confident that His Father was completely in control (Ps. 89:8–9). The disciples became so frightened that they awakened Him and begged Him to rescue them. The title *Master* is the same one Peter used in Luke 5:5. Of course, their problem was not the storm around them but the unbelief within them. Actually, their unbelief was more dangerous than the storm!

The word *rebuked* was used by Jesus when dealing with demons (Luke 4:35, 41; 9:42). It is possible that Satan was behind this severe storm, attempting to destroy Jesus or at least hinder Him from reaching the demonized men at Gadara. But Jesus calmed both the wind and the sea by simply speaking the word. Usually after the winds die down, the waves remain rough for hours; but in this instance, everything became calm immediately and stayed that way (Ps. 148:8).

The disciples failed this test of faith because they did not lay hold of His word that He was going to the other side. It has well been said that faith is not believing in spite of circumstances; it is obeying in spite of feelings and consequences. The disciples looked around and saw danger and looked within and saw fear; but they failed to look up by faith and see God. **Faith and fear cannot dwell together in the same heart.**

A woman said to D.L. Moody, “I have found a wonderful promise!” and she quoted Psalm 56:3, “What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.”

“Let me give you a better one,” said Moody; and he quoted Isaiah 12:2, “Behold God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.”

Martin, J. A. (1985). Isaiah. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 206)

5. JESUS'S MINISTRY THROUGH A SERIES OF MIRACLES (8:22–56)

Luke had previously recorded events that authenticated Jesus' authority (4:31–6:16). Here again an authentication was necessary. Jesus had been teaching that one must listen carefully to His words and carry them out. Now He authenticated His words in ways that only the Messiah could do. Jesus showed His power over three aspects of the created world: the natural realm (8:22–25), the demonic realm (vv. 26–39), and sickness and death (vv. 40–56).

a. Jesus' power over the natural realm (8:22–25) (Matt. 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41).

8:22–25. While **Jesus** and **His disciples** were sailing across the Sea of Galilee to a less-inhabited area, a storm arose which caused their boat to take on water and to be in peril. Sudden storms would whip the lake into a frenzy very quickly. Jesus was **asleep**, so **the disciples went and woke Him** for they were afraid of drowning. Jesus **rebuked** the storm and chided them for their fear and their lack of **faith** in Him. He had already told them they would be crossing **over to the other side of the lake** (v. 22). This was an excellent opportunity for them to act on God's Word that Jesus had been teaching (vv. 1–21). When Jesus rebuked the storm, the lake calmed immediately (which normally does not occur after a storm). The disciples were **in fear and amazement** (cf. vv. 35, 37).