

The God of the Waves

Matthew 8:23-27

Matthew has been presenting Jesus as that the coming King and Messiah and as God the Son, Jesus had the power to bring the kingdom of God to a cursed earth. From His miraculous birth (Matt. 1), to His confirmation by the Father (Matt. 3), to His temptation by the devil (Matt. 4), and to His great teaching and authority (Matt. 5-7), Jesus is God's Messiah. Now in Matt. 8-9, Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords by virtue of His power (cf. Matt. 28:18; Rom. 1:4) The natural story of calming the storm teaches us some supernatural lessons in our daily lives.

1. ***The _____ of _____***

The Sea of Galilee is actually a small lake (13x8 miles at its widest opening). It is 608 feet below sea level and surrounded by Mount Hermon that is about 9,200 feet. Because of its geographical structure, it is not uncommon for instant storms to occur. But at this instance, God prepared a perfect storm (v. 24) that greatly terrified even the disciples (who were used to the storm and were skilled sailors). God wanted the disciples to see and know that He is God who is in control of everything (Heb. 1:2-3; Gen. 18:14; Job 9:12; Psa. 115:3; Jer. 32:17, 27; Zech. 8:6).

In the midst of the turmoil, Jesus was sound asleep (v. 24) because He knows who is in control. Sometimes, storms in life do not only come because of our disobedience, but also when we are obedient. Nevertheless, God's message is that in the midst of these great storms, we should not fear because we have a God who is greater than the storms who promised never to leave us nor forsake us.

2. ***The _____ of the _____***

The disciples tried everything they could to get the boat under control but they could not control the forces of nature. God brought them to the end of their human resources to show them that they are totally dependent upon His divine resources. Only He can give the security and the stability that we need. Jesus gently rebukes His disciples and shows them that He cares for them and that He is able to calm the raging sea (1 Peter 5:6-7).

At Jesus' rebuke, the wind and the waves calmed (Mark 4:39). Jesus is the Lord of all creation (Psalm 107:23-30, cf. Rev. 4:11; Psa. 89:5-9; 29:3-4, 10; 65:5-7; Job 38:8-11).

3. ***The _____ of the _____***

The disciples had some faith, though it was weak. The greatest danger was not the wind of the waves; rather it was the fear and unbelief in the hearts of the disciples and thus, the Lord rebuked their lack of faith. After which, they *feared exceedingly, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"* The disciples were now more afraid of the One who calmed the storm than the storm itself. Nothing is more fearful than to be in the presence of a holy God (cf. Isa. 6:1,5; Dan. 10:8-9; Job 42:5-6, Luke 5:8; Acts 9:4,8). But such fear results in the strengthening of faith (Matt. 14:31).

This story is not just about the disciples' lack of faith. It's about Jesus, it's about being His disciples and the faith it takes to be His disciples. When Jesus calls His true disciples, He gives them faith and that faith leads them to grow in the knowledge of who He truly is and all that He can truly do. Have you trusted in Jesus who alone cares for you and is able to deliver you?