

WHERE IS YOUR FAITH? | LUKE 8:22-25 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 10/26/2025

I. Boarding the Boat (22) | II. Battered by the Wind (23) | III. Belief Overcomes Fear (24-25)

INTRO: There comes a time in our lives, where our **Faith must be tested!** We may have heard hundreds of Bible studies, and have read the Bible several times, **but if we have not faith, it is all in vain.** – You may recall that the disciples had just been given **the key to understanding spiritual things** from their Rabbi (Luke 8:1-21). – However, **KNOWING** spiritual truth is one thing but **BELIEVING IT is the Goal!** – Jesus knew that **the things learned must now sink down into the heart of His disciples**, which then required a testing of their faith! **Now it was time for a Field Test!** – A time to question: **WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?**

I. BOARDING THE BOAT (22) – **READ (22-25):** This story is also mentioned in (Mark 4:35-41; Matt 8:23-27). – **Luke's account is the briefest**, which seems to draw out a slightly different emphasis: i.e., that Jesus' Word was so Authoritative, that **even the Natural Elements are subject to it!**

A. A Certain Day (22a) – According to (Mark 4:35), it was the same day which moved into the evening. Jesus had taught many parables to the disciples, the multitudes, and even dealt with family demands (8:19-20)... it was a Long Day... **He was Exhausted!** – It was time to get away.

1. Jesus Got Into a Boat with His disciples – **Metaphorically**, when **“Jesus is in the boat”** with His disciples He **“leads them”** somewhere. – He **“teaches them”** some new thing. And as we will see, **His disciples are always Safe and Secure in His Presence!** (*Lessons to be learned – by faith*)

2. (Mark 4:36) provides additional insight, informing us that **“others followed Jesus in little boats.”** – These may have learned some things from watching Jesus, but His disciples learned more b/c they were near Him!

P/A – Every day and All day, in morning or evening, we should seek to be close to Jesus. – *Be expectant to learn of Him and He will teach us about Kingdom Living.*

B. A Certain Lesson (22b) – As they boarded the boat, Jesus gave a specific instruction (**word**) to **“Cross over to the other side of the lake.”** – The Gk. phrase *dier-chomai*, is a verb which means to traverse or pierce through. – **They didn't realize it yet**, but Jesus' Word to them was a PROMISE assuring their arrival! Jesus didn't say, **“Let us sink to the bottom of the Galilee”**...He said, **“Let [us] Cross Over!”**

- Without dispute, they **“Launched out,”** *unaware of the faith lesson they were about to face.* (Weather!)
 - When Jesus gives us a command, **a disciple should FOLLOW** with faithful obedience (*These did so*). But to further develop them, they would have to move from Textbook faith to Tempestuous faith!
- Lake Galilee** is 13 miles long and 8 miles wide between its furthest points. – This spot on the lake was about **5 miles across to GADARA**, which is where they were heading (v.26). (*Obviously for additional lessons*)

P/A – Launching Out into the Unknown with Jesus is always a Venture of Faith! – For it is in the Unknown and Untraveled Territory, that a **believer will find his Greatest Lessons with God.**

- As believers in Christ, **KNOW a certain day will come** when **Jesus asks you to Board Your Boat and launch out in faith.** **Will you obey?**
- This gospel lesson actually Promises that **when Jesus directs us to launch out, we will make it to the other side!** – But also remember that **“Jonah ended up in a storm because of his disobedience, but the disciples got into a storm because of their obedience to the Lord.”** – Wiersbe (*He is always in control*)

II. BATTERED BY THE WIND (23) – *But as they sailed...* Sometimes our journey begins with Smooth Sailing. – But many times, **forces unbeknownst to us** interfere with our plans in life. – **D. Waitley** said, *“Expect the best, prepare for the worst, and prepare to be surprised.”* – But as **God Seekers**, we are to follow **(Prov 3:5-6)!**

A. A Tired Jesus (23a) – Luke tells us that *Jesus fell asleep*. – This is the only record where we find this taking place. It speaks of the humanity of Jesus, who worked hard and endlessly at ministering to others.

- **He was exhausted and occasionally had to find a spot to sleep, even if it was an improbable one.**
– In (9:58; Matt 8:20) Jesus said, *“Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”*
- **Ministry... People... Family...** can **Batter** you and **Beat** you down, **Draw** your strength from the LORD and make sure to get some rest! (*b/c you are not Jesus!*)

B. A Tempestuous Wind (23b) – As **Jesus slept peacefully**, we are told that *a battering wind arose and began to beat the boat vehemently*. – The Sea of Galilee is notorious for its severe, unexpected storms. – To the north, Mt. Hermon is 9,200 feet. To the west, Mt. Arbel is approx. 600 feet. – From May through Oct. it was **common for winds** to channel downward to the Sea of Galilee, which is approx. **690 feet below sea level**.

1. **A WINDSTORM** – The word for **WIND** is *“anemos,”* which signifies **a violent agitation or stream of air**. The word for **STORM** is *“lailaps,”* which describes a whirlwind, squall; or tempest. – This was a sudden, violent WINSTORM, breaking forth from black thunder clouds in furious gusts, with floods of rain, and throwing everything topsy-turvy... seemingly coming from all directions! (*This describes certain trials well!*)
 - In (Rev 7:1) there is an interesting correlation with WIND and ANGELS who are responsible for **holding back** the four winds of the earth. *“After these things saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.*
2. **A Possible ATTACK?** – This windstorm *“came down”* so suddenly, that it caused me to consider its origin: **Natural** or **Demonic?** – I honestly believe that **Satan was the author of this storm!** – Why, because *Jesus is on His way over to the Gadarenes*, a place where Satan had a stronghold on those people, as we shall see in the next passage (8:26-39). – *Satan hates when righteousness comes into his territory!*
 - **Satan has always tried to disrupt the work of the Messiah:** He **Inspired Herod** to kill baby Jesus (Matt 2:8-13). He **Tempted Jesus** in the wilderness to abandon God’s path (Matt 4:11). He **Influenced Judas** to betray Jesus (Luke 22:3-6). – This was just Another Attempt... to drown Jesus and His A-Team!

C. A Threatening Circumstance (23c) – *As the boat began to fill*, the disciples realized that they were **Up to their neck in water!** (*Ha*) – No, really... **many of the disciples** were experienced fishermen, **so as the water rose, so did their concern of how severe this windstorm really was.** – **Life Threatening!**

1. **It all happened so fast!** – The wind started beating and the water started filling, and the disciples started panicking... holding on for their lives. (*This is exactly what so many of us do!*)
2. These *“heard Jesus’ teachings about faith,”* they had been taught deep truths, mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven and now it was time for an examination.... **Untested faith is weak faith!**

P/A – As a Christian, do you ever feel like you are Battered by a Whirlwind and you’re About to Drown? **Who do you turn to?** Answer: **JESUS!** – (Heb 6:19a) tells us that *“Jesus is an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...”* – *Jesus is always in control...* ***“The storms of life prove the strength of our anchor.”*** – Unknown

III. BELIEF OVERCOMES FEAR (24,25) – In this predicament, there was nothing that the disciples could do... **but believe that Jesus could help them!** – **Let's focus on FIVE REACTIONS to this fearful situation:**

A. They Came to Jesus (24a) – They realized that they were *in too deep!* (ha) So, *they awoke Jesus from His sleep.* – Bringing it to Jesus is the first thing to do! – But Mark's account mentions their **panicked plea...** *"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"* (Mark 4:38)

- Maybe you've uttered, *"Jesus, why did you fall asleep at this important time in my Life!"*
- **God does not always protect us from the devastation of life's storms!** – But, as we see here, **He is always there for us in the midst of a storm!** – He is always fully aware of the situation, awaiting for us to come to Him. (Heb 12:1b-2a) *"...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith..."* The goal is **to perfect our faith!**

Their next reaction was that...

B. They Confessed their Fear (24b) – Notice that they didn't say *"Master, Master, we believe,"* but rather... *"We are Perishing!"* – Their statement was a **Confession that they were DROWNING with FEAR!** –

- Sometimes the problems in life are not actually the storms around us, **but the Fear Within Us!** –
- The phrases *"Fear Not"* or *"Do not be Afraid"* is widely known for being the most repeated command in the Bible. – While there is no consensus on the exact number, **it is what the Lord wants us to Overcome, by Faith!** – The Sons of Korah understood it perfectly... (tt. Psalm 46:1-3)

Their third reaction was that...

C. They Watched Jesus Calm the Storm (24c) – *He arose and rebuked the wind and raging!* – He simply spoke a Word, and everything settled. – Interestingly enough, This is the same word used when He **"Rebuked"** demons in (4:35, 41; 9:42), *epitimaō*

1. As they watched, **Evidence of His deity were PROVEN by His Power/Authority:** **Everything Ceased:** (Job 26:12) *He stirs up the sea with His power, and by His understanding He breaks up the storm.*
2. They had previously witnessed Jesus' Proven Power on many occasions (Luke 5), so **What Happened?** – **Picture the Scene...** They went from Pandemonium to Perfect Peace in a moment, the Elements became CALM: (Psalm 107:29) *He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.* (He can do the same for our circumstances)

However, next we see that...

D. They were Rebuked by Jesus (25a) – Jesus wasn't bothered by the storm, neither was He bothered by Satan's attempt to disrupt his ministry. **What disappointed Him most was the disciples Lack of Faith!**

1. Jesus said to them... **WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?** – **The problem was found in their statement:** *"We are Perishing!"* – He promised them that **THEY would Cross Over, not Go Under!**
 2. They saw Him *raise the dead*; they saw Him *control the fish*; they saw Him *cast out demons*; and they saw Him *heal all types of people*, so when Jesus said, **Where is your faith?** – They became embarrassed... as if Jesus said... *"Couldn't you believe Me for this?"* (It was a Lapse of Faith at the moment! – The shakes!)
- Jesus always looks for Faith (cf. Heb 11:6). – In a parable about persistent prayer, **He stated a concern,** *"...when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18:8b).
 - Every day, either **Faith or Fear** will sail into the harbor of our hearts. *Don't let Fear drop its anchor!*

P/A – We must understand that **UNBELIEF is more harmful than a hurricane!** – And because Jesus loves us, He will faithfully REBUKE any unbelief within us!

Their final reaction was that...

E. They Marveled at Who Jesus is (25b) – *They were afraid!* – They questioned... *“Who can this be?”*

They moved from the **Fear of the Storm** to **Fear of the Savior!** (*Which is the right focus!*)

1. They only knew Him as their Teacher and Master; *They did not yet know that He is Master over all Nature!*

2. Jesus is Both **Creator** and **Maintainer of All Matter and Nature!** – Paul makes this clear in his epistle to the Colossians, *“He [Jesus] is before all things, and in Him all things consist” (Col 1:17).*

- **As the Son of God**, He is one with the Father, who can control the forces of nature by bringing higher laws into operation. Yet, never conflicting God-given laws with well-known natural laws.

- **All creation shall recognize and marvel**, because **the Creator is present in His creation** and is **simultaneously** the maintainer and preserver of all things. – (Rev 4:11) *“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.*

3. **At Jesus’ Word...** *“Peace, be still”* (Mark 4:39), **the elements** immediately obeyed Him. – But at Jesus’ command, **His disciples** struggled to believe in His Promise to cross over with them!

P/A – So then, the underlying implication is, *if even the winds and the water...* **Obey him**, who are we Not To? **WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?** – **SATAN** will send storms into your life and try to drown you out... but **Where is Your faith!** – **Sometimes even GOD** will allow storms in your life... not to discipline us **but to** discipline us, not to break us, but to make us better, to be more like His Son. – *God knows “the test” which will best increase our faith (cf. 1 Cor 10:13)*

CLOSING QUESTION: Is Jesus in your boat? Perhaps you left Him at shore!

- And finally, (Heb 10:23) *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*