

MIRACLES

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Week 03: Navigating the Storms of Life

The Edmund Fitzgerald | November 10, 1975





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The Sea of Galilee



Matthew 8:23-27 (NLT) - "Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. **24** Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with **waves breaking into the boat**. But **Jesus was sleeping**. **25** The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, 'Lord, save us! **We're going to drown!**' **26** Jesus responded, 'Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!' Then **he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm**. **27** The disciples were amazed. '**Who is this man?**' they asked. 'Even the winds and waves obey him!'"

“As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, **‘Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.’** **36** So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). **37** But **soon a fierce storm came up.** High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. **38** **Jesus was sleeping** at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, ‘Teacher, **don’t you care** that we’re going to drown?’ **39** When

Mark 4:35-41 (NLT)

Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, ‘Silence! Be still!’ Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. 40 Then he asked them, **‘Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?’ 41** **The disciples were absolutely terrified.** ‘Who is this man?’ they asked each other. ‘Even the wind and waves obey him!’”

Mark 4:35-41 (NLT)

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1. The **BACKGROUND** of the Miracle

Luke 8:22 (NLT) — “One day Jesus said to his disciples,
‘Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.’ So they got
into a boat and started out.”



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BACKGROUND of the Miracle:

- Long day of ministry
- Confrontations with religious leadership
- Large crowds
- Jesus tells them to set sail, falls asleep
- Disciples obey Him



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BACKGROUND of the Miracle:

- Storm suddenly comes up
- “seismos” = earthquake
- Think “hurricane”
- Waves beating boat, full of water
- Waves covering the boat

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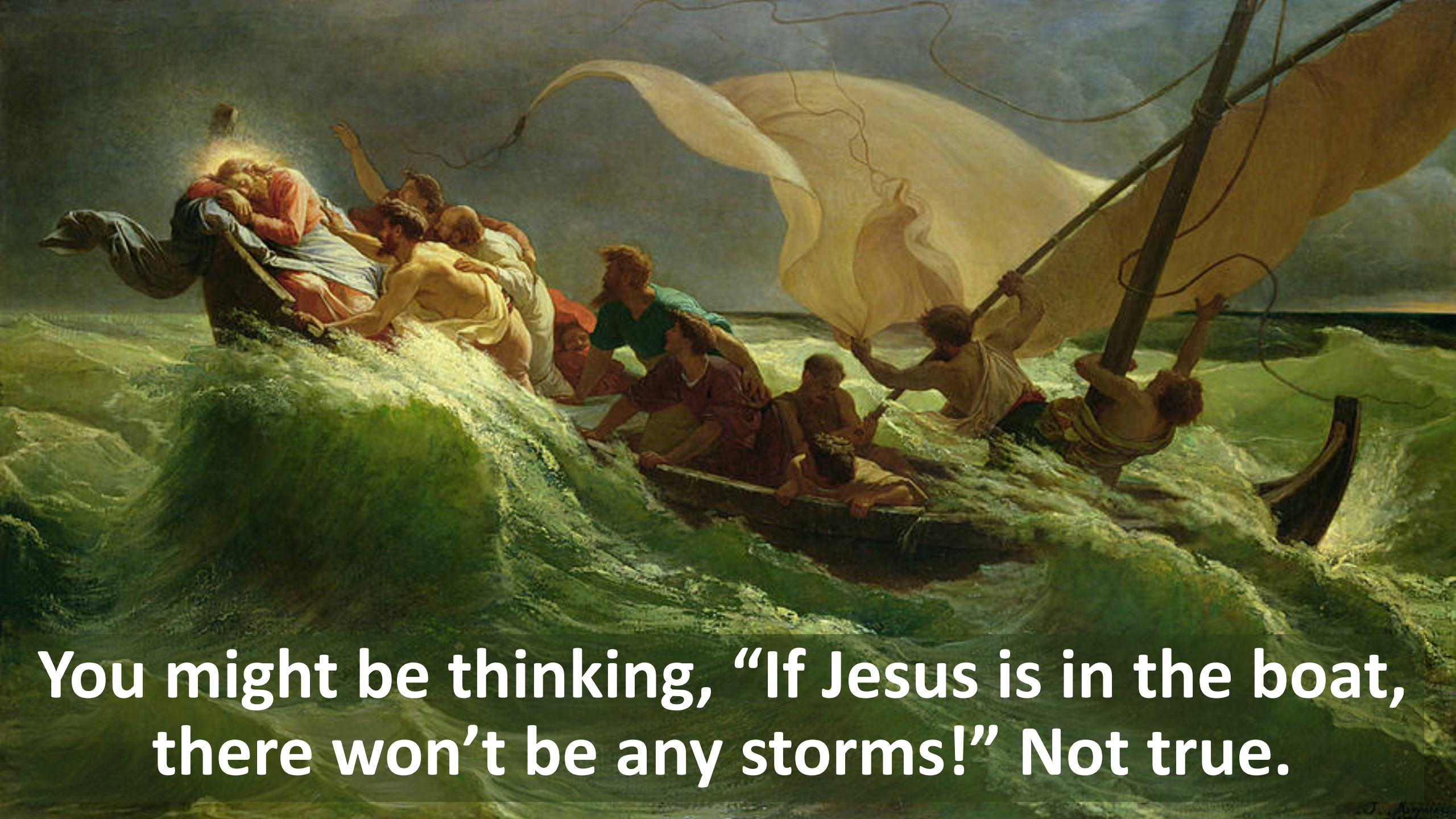
2. The **ELEMENTS** of the Miracle

Luke 8:23–24 (NLT) — “As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap. But soon a fierce storm came down on the lake. The boat was filling with water, and they were in real danger. **24** The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, ‘Master, Master, we’re going to drown!’ When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm.”

**There Always Seems
to Be a Storm in the
Distance**



James 1:2–4 (NLT) — “Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. **3** For you know that **when your faith is tested**, your endurance has a chance to grow. **4** So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.”

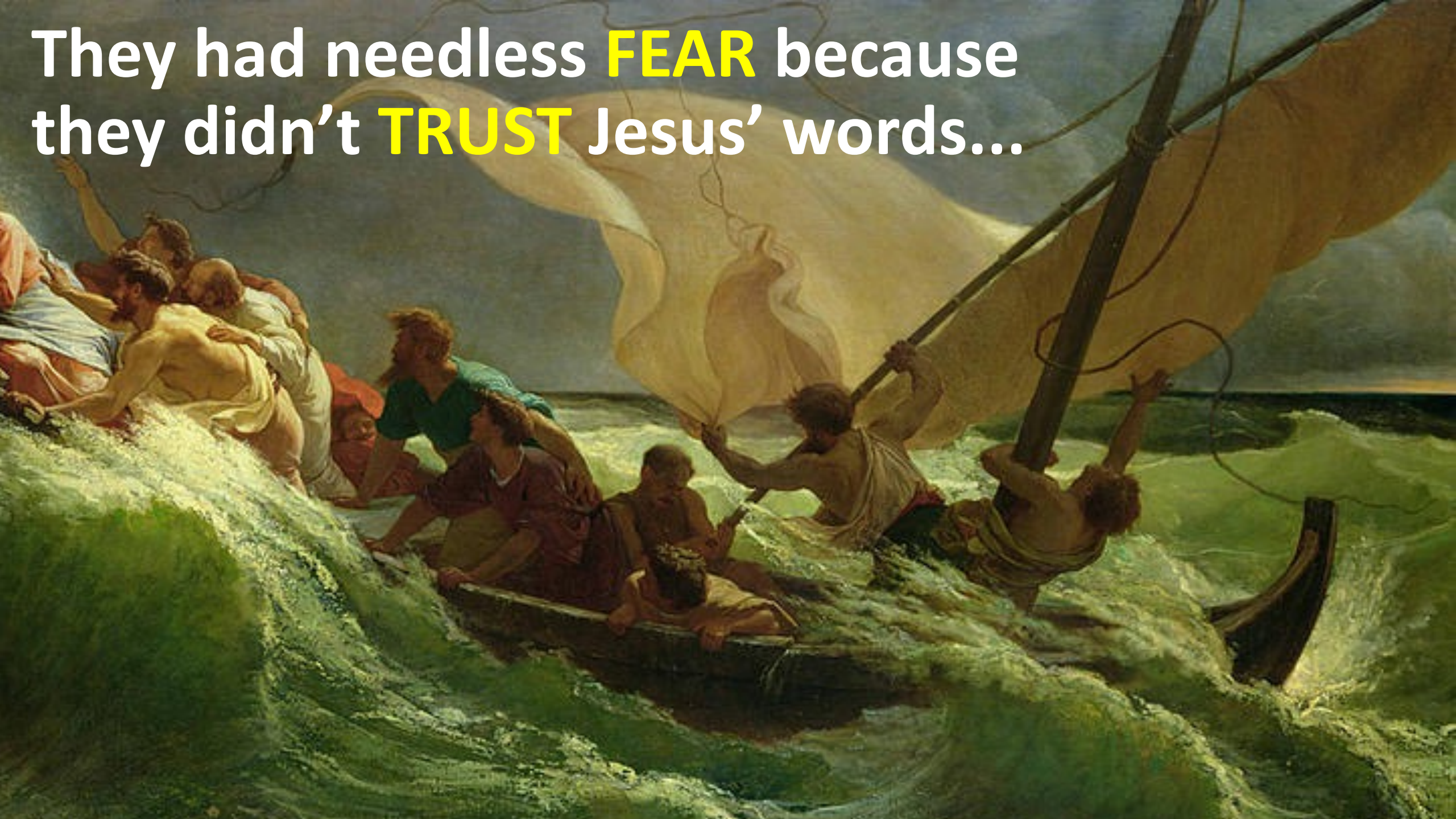


You might be thinking, “If Jesus is in the boat, there won’t be any storms!” Not true.

A storm... and Christ is on board!



They had needless **FEAR** because
they didn't **TRUST** Jesus' words...



But... Jesus had a **PLAN!**



But... Jesus had a **PLAN!**
Faith must be **TESTED** before it can be
TRUSTED.



“Lord, save us! We are going to drown!”



“Lord, save us! We are going to drown!”

FAITH was **PARALYZED** by **FEAR**.



Psalms 107:24–30 (NLT) — “They, too, observed the LORD’s power in action, his impressive works on the deepest seas. **25** He spoke, and the winds rose, stirring up the waves. **26** Their ships were tossed to the heavens and plunged again to the depths; the sailors cringed in terror. **27** They reeled and staggered like drunkards and were at their wits’ end. **28** ‘LORD, help!’ they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. **29 He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves.** **30** What a blessing was that stillness as he brought them safely into harbor!”



The waves **OBEYED
His voice!**

Luke 8:24 (NLT) — “The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, ‘Master, Master, we’re going to drown!’ When Jesus woke up, **he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm.**”



The waves **OBEYED
His voice!**

Take Notice of These Things:

- Jesus brings nature under submission with just a word of command



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Take Notice of These Things:

- Jesus brings nature under submission with just a word of command
- It was done effectively... “there was great calm”



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Take Notice of These Things:

- Jesus brings nature under submission with just a word of command
- It was done effectively... “there was great calm”
- The disciples are afraid

Fear

- Storm... “They were **afraid**.”
- Jesus calms the storm... “They were absolutely **terrified**.”



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Luke 8:25 (NLT) — “Then he asked them, **‘Where is your faith?’** The disciples were terrified and amazed. ‘Who is this man?’ they asked each other. ‘When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!’”

The STORM did not
disturb Jesus, but
the disciples'
UNBELIEF did.



Psalm 89:8–9 (NLT) — “O LORD God of Heaven’s Armies! Where is there anyone as mighty as you, O LORD? You are entirely faithful. **9 You rule the oceans. You subdue their storm-tossed waves.**”

A dramatic sunset or sunrise scene. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds on the left, transitioning to a bright, golden glow on the right where the sun is setting or rising. A single, jagged lightning bolt strikes down from the dark clouds on the left side. In the center-right of the image, a small sailboat with a dark hull and a single mast is silhouetted against the bright horizon. The water in the foreground is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky and the silhouette of the sailboat. The overall mood is one of tranquility amidst a powerful, stormy atmosphere.

Where is **OUR** faith during the
storms of life?

3-Fold Challenge During a Storm:

1. **Worry**

- This changes nothing!

2. Work

-

3. Trust

-



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3-Fold Challenge During a Storm:

1. Worry

- This changes nothing!

2. **Work**

- We realize it's out of our control

3. Trust

-



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3-Fold Challenge During a Storm:

1. Worry

- This changes nothing!

2. Work

- We realize it's out of our control

3. **Trust**

- Fall in faith and ask Jesus for help



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1 Peter 1:5–7 (NLT) — “And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see. **6** So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. **7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold.** So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.”

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