

Summer Sermon Series: It's Worth Repeating

“Master, Master”

(Luke 8:24)

Introduction

➤ This summer, we have been studying consecutively repeated words in Scripture (there are only about fifteen of them in all of Scripture, not counting the twenty-five “Truly, truly” statements from Jesus recorded in John’s Gospel). These words are repeated for emphasis. That is, to get someone’s attention, to express sincerity or seriousness, to rebuke or admonish, or to declare important truth or information.

So far in this series we have studied (8 of them):

- ♦ “*Abraham, Abraham*” (Gen.22:11)
- ♦ “*Holy, Holy, Holy*” (Is.6:3; Rev.4:8)
- ♦ “*Moses, Moses*” (Ex.3:4)
- ♦ “*Absalom, Absalom*” (2Sam.18:33; 19:4)
- ♦ “*Lord, Lord*” (Matt.7:21)
- ♦ “*the LORD, the LORD*” (Ex.34:6)
- ♦ “*Simon, Simon*” (Luke 22:31)
- ♦ “*My God, My God*” (Ps.22:1; Matt.27:46; Mk.15:34)

➤ This morning we are going to look at emphatic statement of “*Master, Master*”, found only in the Gospel of Luke:

Luke 8:22-25 ~ “One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side of the lake.’ So they set out, ²³and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. ²⁴And they went and woke him, saying, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. ²⁵He said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’ And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, ‘Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?’”

➤ It is interesting and important to note that Peter did not call Jesus by the more common expression of “Lord” (*kyrios*; lord, master, sir; used over 700 times in the New Testament). Instead, in his fear and panic, the disciples referred to Jesus as “*Master*” (*epistatēs*; 7 times in the New Testament, and only in Luke’s Gospel, and only as a direct address).

Luke 5:5 ~ “And Simon answered, ‘Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.’”

Luke 8:24 ~ “And they went and woke him, saying, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.”

Luke 8:45 ~ “And Jesus said, ‘Who was it that touched me?’ When all denied it, Peter said, ‘Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!’”

Luke 9:33 ~ “And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, ‘Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah’ – not knowing what he said.”

Luke 9:49 ~ “John answered, ‘Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.’”

Luke 17:12-13 ~ “And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance ¹³and lifted up their voices, saying, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.’”

- The word “*Master*” (*epistatēs*) was another term denoting someone’s authority, but not necessarily deity. It could literally be translated “one sets above” or “one who stands over”, as in a commander, leader, director, or overseer. While “*Lord*” (*kyrios*) referred to Jesus’ Messianic/Divine authority, and “*Teacher*” (*didaskalos*) referred to His teaching authority (authority to instruct), “*Master*” referred to His authoritative position or rank (within the group or occasion).

When Peter found Jesus sleeping in the boat, in the midst a terrible (potentially deadly) storm, he called Jesus his (the) “*Master*” (vs.24), referring specifically to Jesus as the one who is in charge.

- Let’s back up to understand the context of this story, and the miracle that proved that Jesus Christ is the Son of God! In verse 22, we read: “*One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side of the lake.’ So they set out*” (vs.22). At this point in Jesus’ three-year public ministry, He was teaching, preaching, and performing miracles in Galilee (the region in the northern part of Palestine, about 85 miles north of Jerusalem).

While Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Judea (as fulfillment of Old Testament Messianic prophecies; Matt.2:1-8), much of His public ministry was in Galilee – He had lived in Nazareth, Galilee and set up His Galilean headquarters in Capernaum (after those in His hometown tried to kill Him; Lk.4:16-31) – and many of the miracles He performed were on and around the Sea of Galilee.

- In Luke 8:22, we find that Jesus “*got into a boat with his disciples*” to “*go across to the other side of the lake*”, which is the Sea of Galilee (we would describe it more as a lake than a sea – about eight miles wide and thirteen miles long). Mark informs us that “*evening had come*” (Mk.35). Jesus had spent day teaching – all day – and performing miracles as well. So, at the end of the day, Jesus was undoubtedly exhausted and wanted to cross the Sea of Galilee (from the western shore to the eastern). Mark also noted that “*other boats were with him*” (Matt.8:36).

“*So they set out, ²³and as they sailed he fell asleep*” (vs.22-23). Many preachers will speculate as to the spiritual/theological reasons why Jesus fell asleep. However, as the saying goes, it seems that “the plain point is the main point.” Jesus fell asleep because he was very exhausted after a full day of ministering to crowds of people.

- While they were on the Sea of Galilee, “*a windstorm came*” causing the boats to “*[fill] with water*” and all those in the boats to be “*in danger*” (vs.23). This “*windstorm*” (*lailaps*) was clearly more than a strong breeze causing mild wakes on the sea. The word refers to “a squall of wind” or even “a hurricane.” This ferocious storm apparently came without (much) warning, and almost immediately put everyone’s lives in danger.

Matthew 8:24 ~ “And behold, there arose a great [*megas*] storm [*seismos*; “seismic”] on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves”

Mark 4:37~ “And a great [*megas*] windstorm [*lailaps*] arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.”

- The “Sea of Galilee” is only approximately 13 miles long (North to South) and 8 miles wide (East to west). This fresh-water lake is fed from the little Jordan River that flows down from Mount Hermon at the north point of Galilee. At the surface, this small lake is 680 feet below sea level. Although a storm on the Sea of Galilee was not uncommon (as cool air can funnel down through the mountains and stir up sudden storms), it was unusual to have one occur in the evening (Mk.4:35) and so quickly.

✓ **Illust:** “The Sea of Galilee appears to be a very tranquil place, especially in the morning when most tourist photos are taken. But as the local fisherman knew, the Sea of Galilee is surrounded by high mountains which form a kind of basin. It is not uncommon for sudden storms to form on the Sea as winds from the south enter the basin through a large notch. These winds then create surprising violent windstorms which create rather large waves and chop, especially in the late afternoon of certain months of the year. This is why most fishing on the lake was done at night or early in the morning, when the winds are calm and when the fish are closest to the surface. This is what made such a strong storm in the early evening hours all that more frightening since it was completely out of the ordinary” (from sermon by Kim Riddlebarger, “*Who is This? Even the*

Wind and the Waves Obey Him”).

- It is important to remember that many of the disciples were fishermen. They had spent countless hours on this sea, and had grown accustomed to the various weather conditions they would face while sailing. They knew this storm was life-threatening – “*we are perishing!*” (vs.24; *apollymi*; same in Matt.8:25; Mk.4:38).
- Jesus had fallen asleep before the storm arose, and stayed asleep even during its furious winds. “*And they went and woke him, saying, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’*” (vs.24). As is more clear in the other Gospels, this earnest exclamation was much more than just giving Jesus information. They wanted Jesus to do something about the storm; they desperately wanted Him to save them from dying. It seems as though Jesus’ disciples were hysterical.

Matt 8:25 ~ “And they went and woke him, saying, ‘Save us, Lord [*kyrios*]; we are perishing.’”

Mark 4:38 ~ “But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, ‘Teacher [*didaskalos*], do you not care that we are perishing?’”

- So Jesus woke up, from apparently a deep sleep, in the midst of a ferocious storm, with the disciples fervent pleas for help. What Jesus did next is truly and purely amazing: “*he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm*” (vs.24). By the sheer authority of His voice, His command (“divine fiat”), the storm immediately stopped. We read that he simply “*rebuked*” (*epitimaō*; admonished strongly) the storm, and there was an immediate and absolute calm. The treacherous sea became like a sheet of glass, and the thunderous noise of the crashing waves became quiet. Instantly, it went from a *mega* storm to a *mega* calm.

Mark 4:39 ~ “And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace! [*siōpaō*; be silent] Be still! [*phimoō*; be still]’ And the wind ceased, and there was a great [*megas*] calm.” (see Matt.8:26)

- There’s an old saying that goes something like this: “Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.” The reason why nobody does anything about it is because nobody can do anything about it. But Jesus can, and Jesus did. Today, with all of our unprecedented technology and knowledge, we still can barely/irregularly predict the weather – we certainly cannot command, or control, or affect the weather. This miracle proved that Jesus possessed almighty power.
 - ✓ **Illust:** “Let us mark this lesson also, and lay it up in our minds. With the Lord Jesus Christ nothing is impossible. No stormy passions are so strong but He can tame them. No temper is so rough and violent but He can change it. No conscience is so disturbed, but He can speak peace to it, and make it calm. No man ever need despair, if He will only bow down his pride, and come as a humbled sinner to Christ. Christ can do miracles upon his heart. No man ever need despair of reaching his journey’s end, if he has once committed his soul to Christ’s keeping. Christ will carry him through every danger. Christ will make him conqueror over every foe. What though our relations oppose us? What though our neighbors laugh us to scorn? What though our place be hard? What though our temptations be great? It is all nothing, if Christ is on our side, and we are in the ship with Him. Greater is He that is for us, than all those who are against us” (J.C. Ryle; *Expository thoughts on Mark*; Mk.4:35-41).
- When Jesus rebuked the storm and the storm obeyed. The reason why Jesus could command the storm is because He is the Son of God – the divine agent of all creation.

Gen 1:1-3 ~ “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ...³And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.”

Col 1:15-17 ~ “He [i.e., the Son] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation [*ktisis*].

¹⁶For by him all things were created [*ktizō*], in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created [*ktizō*] through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together [“*hold together*” (*synestēken*); ‘perfectly framed’].”

Heb 1:1-4 ~ “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created [*poieō*] the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds [*pherōn*; sustains or maintains] the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

John 1:3-4 ~ “All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”

- Notice that Jesus did not have to argue or bargain with nature. He did not plead with the storm or even ask politely. And He certainly did not consult with “Mother Nature” (which is an idolatrous/blasphemous view). With two words (in Greek, *siōpaō phimoō*), He commanded the storm to cease, and it did – immediately and completely.
- After rebuking the storm, Jesus turned and rebuked His disciples saying, “*Where is your faith?*” (vs.25). It is not the disciples had no faith in Jesus – no belief in who He was and trust in what He has said – but that their faith in Jesus was small, weak, and or shallow. Consequently, their faith in Jesus was easily challenged and defeated, prone to doubt or disbelief.

We can be in the “same boat” – struggling to maintain our faith in God in the midst of the storms of life. While our lowest moments do not necessarily define us, how we respond to trials can reveal the truth veracity and maturity of our faith in Christ. Do we only believe or trust in God in good times, when things are “going our way”, or is our belief and trust in God absolute, unconditional, and unwavering?

Matt 8:26 ~ “And he said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?’”

Mark 4:40 ~ “He said to them, ‘Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?’”

- They had feared the storm, now they feared the one who commands the storm: “... *And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, ‘Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?’*” (vs.25). Notice that it was also after Jesus calmed the storm that the disciples “*afraid*” (*phobeo*), “*great fear*” (*megas phobos*; Mk.4:41), and “*marveled*” (*thaumazō*; to admire, wonder, revere). They were more likely, at this point, to fear the One who controlled the storm and the storm itself.

No one had ever seen anything like this before. No one had even heard of something like this before. No human being has ever changed the weather by simply commanding it. The disciples had no reference at all for what they had just experienced; no category in which to put Jesus.

✓ Illust: “They realized that they were in the presence of something more terrifying than the violent forces of nature ... The disciples were in the presence of the holy. They were in the presence of One who had no category, because He was transcendent. He was other. He was different. He was higher. He was holy. And there is nothing on this planet more frightening than to be in the presence of the holy” (R.C. Sproul; *Luke: An Expository Commentary*; Lk.8:22-25).

Matt 8:27 ~ “And the men marveled, saying, ‘What sort of man [*potapos*] is this, that even winds and sea obey him?’” [note: *potapos* “what kind/manner” can literally be translated “of/from what country”]

Mark 4:41 ~ “And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’”

Isa 6:5 ~ “And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost [or undone, ruined, destroyed, disintegrated]; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’”

- The disciples realized that Jesus was no mere man, for He possessed supernatural ability and authority. But as the Son of God, the divine agent of all creation, Jesus did not merely possess the power of God. He is fully God and fully man – the one and only Son of God and the one and only Savior from God.

Luke 7:36-50 ~ “One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. ³⁷And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, ‘If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.’ ⁴⁰And Jesus answering said to him, ‘Simon, I have something to say to you.’ And he answered, ‘Say it, Teacher.’

⁴¹‘A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?’ ⁴³Simon answered, ‘The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.’ And he said to him, ‘You have judged rightly.’ ⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, ‘Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven – for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.’ ⁴⁸And he said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ ⁴⁹Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this, who even forgives sins?’ ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, ‘Your faith has saved you; go in peace.’”

- The question, “Who is Jesus?”, is the most important question you will ever be asked and the most important question to answer. For the answer to that question not only determines how you will live in this life, but where you will spend eternity. The right answer is to confess Jesus as the only and only Son of God, and the one and only Savior from God.
- Later, as recorded in Matthew’s Gospel, we find the disciples again in the boat, again on the Sea of Galilee, again in the midst of a storm, and again Jesus calming the storm. This time, however, knew exactly what who Jesus was:

Matt 14:22-33 ~ “Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night [i.e., 3am-6am] he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, ‘It is a ghost!’ and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.’

²⁸And Peter answered him, ‘Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.’ ²⁹He said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’ ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, ‘O you of little faith, why did you doubt?’ ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”

- This is the ultimate purpose of all Jesus’ countless miracles.

John 21:25 ~ “Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”

John 20:30-31 ~ “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

Conclusion

- This was not the first miracle Jesus performed to prove that He is the Son of God, nor would it be the last. In fact, in just the immediate context of our passage this morning, Luke recorded Jesus’ power over nature (8:22-25), demons (8:26-39), disease (8:43-48), and death (8:40-42, 49-56).
- Christ’s question to the disciples after He had calmed the storm may be very applicable to us. As He asked His disciples, “*Where is your faith?*” (vs.25) so He might also be asking you today. Are you trusting in Christ with all your life? Is your faith grounded and rooted in the knowledge that Christ is God, the one and only Son of God and one and only Savior from God?

When various storms assail your life, are you more filled with faith or controlled by fear? It is relatively easy to encourage someone else to have faith when they encounter a difficult storm in their life, but it is an altogether different experience when we ourselves are in the midst of difficult storm (e.g., spiritual, financial, physical, marital, emotional, relational, etc.). Thus, it is good to be regularly reminded that Jesus is God, and as God He is more than able to help us in our time of need. As we recognize and revere Him as God, so too we must also trust Him as God.