

## **Miracles by the Sea**

Jesus Stills the Tempest

Matthew 8:18-27

Mark 4:35-41

Luke 8:22-25

## Calming of Storm

### Texts:

**Matthew 8:18, 23-27, Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commendment to depart unto the other side. And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?**

**Mark 4:35-41, And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**

**Luke 8:22-25, Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we**

**perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! For he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.**

### **Commentary:**

I. Christ, seeing the press of the multitudes when evening had come, gave orders for the disciples to depart in a boat to the other side, east side of the Sea of Galilee.

**Note:** The sermon of Parables is recorded in Matthew 12. The Calming of the Storm is recorded in Matthew 8. Evidently the Sermon of Parables came before the Calming of the Storm although Matthew evidently did not choose to present these events in chronological order.

II. Jesus entered a boat and his disciples followed him.

A. In shipping/naval protocol, the highest ranking officer, Jesus in this case, entered the boat first.

III. As the boat crossed the Sea of Galilee a sudden storm arose. If a storm had been expected they would not have set sail. Other boats went with them on this crossing.

A. The waves covered the boat and the disciples thought the boat was about to sink. The boat was filling with water!

B. The Sea of Galilee is given to sudden storms due in part to its being surrounded by mountain gorges through which winds blow. The Sea of Galilee is 6 miles wide, 13 miles long, and 700 feet below sea level.

C. Experienced fishermen recognized this to be no ordinary storm!  
They feared for their lives.

D. Satan was here clearly at work.

IV. Jesus was asleep on a cushion in the stern/back of the boat  
unconcerned about the storm.

A. The disciples turned to Jesus in their time of trouble asking,  
“Save, Lord, we perish.”

B. Mark phrases the disciples’ question, “Teacher, carest thou not  
that we perish?” Be assured, one and all, Jesus cares!

C. This is what we should do as well! Jesus is the one who can  
save. Without him we perish.

D. Jesus asked the disciples: Why are you afraid? Is it because of  
your lack of faith? Your negative thinking? Your lack of a  
positive attitude?

E. What if the newscasters announced that a tornado was heading  
straight for our community? How would we feel? What would  
we do?

V. Jesus arose and took care of the problem!

A. Jesus rebuked the winds and the sea. A great calm immediately  
came upon the sea. This saved the disciples and others who  
were in the accompanying boats.

B. No doubt the same calm came to the hearts of the disciples.

C. The disciples feared exceedingly, were amazed that even the  
winds and the sea obeyed Jesus, that he had power over nature.

D. It may be, compare Matthew and Mark, that Jesus at this time again asked the disciples, “Why are you fearful? Have you not yet faith?”

E. Everything was and is under the authority of Jesus Christ.

F. Jesus is clearly shown here to be supernatural!

**Question:** Matthew, Mark and Luke used the third person to describe these events (them, they) instead of the first person (us, we). Was Matthew in the boat? If so, why did he not use the first person pronouns?

VI. Augustine (circa 400) said, “We are sailing in this life as through a sea.”

A. Storms of trouble and temptations arise.

B. Jesus can still the storms of our lives.

## VII. **Master, The Tempest Is Raging**

Master, the tempest is raging! The billows are tossing high! The sky is o'er-shadowed with blackness, No shelter or help is nigh. Carest Thou not that we perish? How canst Thou lie asleep When each moment so madly is threat'ning A grave in the angry deep?

Master, with anguish of spirit I bow in my grief today; The depths of my sad heart are troubled; O waken and save, I pray! Torrents of sin and of anguish Sweep o'er my sinking soul; And I perish! I perish! Dear Master O hasten, and take control.

Master, the terror is over, The elements sweetly rest; Earth's sun in the calm lake is mirrored, And heaven's within my breast. Linger, O

blessed Redeemer, Leave me alone no more; And with joy I shall make  
the blest harbor, And rest on the blissful shore.

The winds and the waves shall obey Thy will, Peace be still! Whether  
the wrath of the storm-tossed sea, Or demons, or men, or whatever it be,  
No water can swallow the ship where lies The Master of ocean, and  
earth, and skies: They all shall sweetly obey Thy will; Peace, be still!  
Peace, be still! They all shall sweetly obey Thy will; Peace, peace, be  
still!

## Jesus Stills the Tempest

### Questions

1. Christ gave \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ to depart in a \_\_\_\_\_ to the other side, to the \_\_\_\_\_ side of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

2. As the \_\_\_\_\_ crossed the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ a sudden \_\_\_\_\_ arose. The \_\_\_\_\_ covered the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ thought the \_\_\_\_\_ was about to \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is given to \_\_\_\_\_ due in part to its being \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ through which \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ on a \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ unconcerned about the \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ turned to Jesus in their time of \_\_\_\_\_ asking, “\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_!” Mark adds, “\_\_\_\_\_, carest thou not that we \_\_\_\_\_?”

6. Jesus arose and \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_! Jesus rebuked the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. A great \_\_\_\_\_ immediately came upon the \_\_\_\_\_. No doubt the same \_\_\_\_\_ came to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

7. What lesson does this story teach us? \_\_\_\_\_

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Finished exam can be mailed or dropped off at:  
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