

Lunch Time Bible Study  
**God With Us**  
A Study of Matthew: "He Calms the Storm"  
Matthew 8:23-27

June 12, 2018

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*"And He said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm." (Matthew 8:26)*

**I. The Disciples in the Storm (vv.23-24)**

- a. Notice the text said the disciples followed Jesus into the boat. Jesus was always fully aware of His surroundings. There were experienced fisherman on the boat.
- b. The Sea of Galilee about 13 miles long and eight miles wide. It was not unusual for violent storms to suddenly blow across the water.
- c. If we truly are "following" we will be led into storms...not for our hurt, but to reveal His personal help. Not for our pain, but to reveal His power.
- d. Though we walk with Jesus, His disciples are also in need of miracles. Our faith needs growth.
- e. The boat represents the Church, the rough sea and wind are in the world in which the missional Church lives; and the fearful faith of believers is the main point in the story.
- f. The storm came because they *obeyed* Jesus, not because they *disobeyed* (like Jonah).
- g. The disciples cry out, "Save us, Lord we are perishing." The last verb *apollymetha* literally means "we are being destroyed."
- h. In times of disaster we need a Lord (*Kyrios, kyros* – power).

**II. Jesus Calms the Sea**

- a. The point of the story would not have been as dramatic if Jesus had been awake.
- b. The Lord in heaven neither sleeps nor slumbers (Psalm 121:4), but on earth, as true man, he did.
- c. Jesus awakes and responds to the cries with, "O you of little faith." "Little-faith" in the Gospels is faith that wilts in crises, particularly in the face of danger.
- d. Jesus expects confidence in His Lordship (*Kyrios, kyros* – power) over everything, the natural world included.
- e. Was it wrong for the disciples to cry for help? No, Jesus helps little-faith but He does not admire it.
- f. Jesus teaches valuable lessons as He calms the sea:
  1. Even little-faith is faith. A trembling hand can still hold on to the Deliverer. Jesus helps doubters.
  2. He is in serene control of all matters.
  3. Jesus reveals His true humanity (he sleeps) and His true deity (he commands the winds and sea).
- g. The story shows us that those who are "going" with Christ through this world, to the other side, must expect storms.

**III. Thoughts and Considerations for Action**

- a. Perhaps, sleep with confidence pleases Jesus more than prayer with fear.
- b. Beloved, Jesus wants a growing faith and confident character in Him. The only way to achieve this growth and development, we must journey with Him through the good and the bad.
- c. The Lord wants us to acknowledge Him in all life events. (birthdays, joy, marriages, prayer, praise, sicknesses, fatigue, frustration, torment).
- d. Jesus will not lower the bar of discipleship for any of us. He does not want us to be content with little-faith.
- e. This story is being passed on by these disciples because they want to encourage future disciples to place their confidence in the Lord whose grace is more important than our faith.