

## WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?

Ever been in a windstorm on a lake? Tossed about by frightening power? Luke 8:22-25 records a storm on the Sea of Galilee. "But Jesus issued a direct command, and instantly the forces of nature submitted in obedience to the voice of their Creator, who had spoken all things into existence," observes RC Sproul. Because God is sovereign, we respond in faith, not fear.

The disciples had an invitation to cross the lake. But their situation became a tribulation in the raging storm. Jesus spoke a prohibition, and suddenly all was calm again. Because He is the Creator in Psalm 33:6, "*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap. He spoke and it came to be. He commanded and it stood firm.*" The sovereign God rules!

**THE DIFFERENCE** - The disciples went from being ready to perish to the sudden experience of Jesus' presence and power. They had turned to Him in faith. Psalm 33:18 says "*The sovereign God sits enthroned to deliver those who fear Him.*" That's the fear of respectful trust in God.

In Isaiah 57:14-21, God says, "*I will heal My people with peace, but the wicked are like the tossing sea. For the wicked there is no peace.*" Without trusting God, there will be no peace. This powerful object lesson in Luke 8 echoes John 16:33 where Jesus says, "*in the world you will have tribulation, but take heart, I have overcome the world.*"

**THE QUESTION** - In Luke 8:25, Jesus asks fearful disciples a question: "*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?*" Didn't they know Who was with them in the boat? How can you be petrified and worried for your life, when the Lord of life is with you?

Where is your faith? But first, what is faith? Faith is believing, trusting, commitment. Faith means putting your trust in something trustworthy. Faith is only as good as the object of your trust. The object of the disciples' faith was Jesus. He asks, "*Where is your faith?*" Did it get washed overboard in the storm? Why are you despairing, if you are trusting Him who is with you?

Jesus promises, "*I am with you always*" (Joshua 1:9, Matthew 28:20) as you trust and obey the authority of the Lord, who gives His presence and power to live for Him as His followers. Faith doesn't mean no fear. Faith takes courage, going ahead in spite of fear. Faith trusts greater truths, plowing into the storm, because you know the Lord Jesus is with you. Always.

**THE ADORATION** - The disciples exclaim "*Who is this*" as they revere the object of their faith. "After threats posed by forces of nature were removed, they become even more afraid," notes Sproul, "in the presence of the Holy One. Psychologists say people are afraid of impersonal things, but nothing is more terrifying to mankind than the personal holy God."

Even the wind and waves obey Jesus' command, "making it clear that He is in a class by Himself, unlike any other person in history." The disciples are properly left in awestruck reverence of Him. Psalm 107 speaks of the Lord calming stormy waves so that men's courage melted away. They cried to the Lord who delivered them and made the storm be still. "*Let them thank the Lord for His steadfast love and His wondrous works*" and "*let them tell of His deeds with joy.*"

**YOUR CONSIDERATION** - How will you apply the storm on Galilee to your own life? "Jesus is God incarnate, *God with us*, intrinsically worthy of your devotion, and who has authority over your life," observes Sproul. So where's your faith? This week as you cross the lake of life, storms are likely to arise. You may experience danger, doubt, death, demons, disappointment, darkness. No matter your situation or tribulation, put all your faith, trust, commitment, in the Lord Jesus.

"The fact that Christ is Creator, Sustainer and Goal of everything brings us to the ultimate grand logic," says Sproul, "that He can meet every need we will have in this life or in the world to come." Because Jesus Christ is Lord of the universe, nothing happens by accident. Do you trust Him?

"Trust the Master not only in sunshine but also in storms," counsels JC Ryle. "What is the profit if you cannot believe in a time of need? Greater is He who is for us, than all who are against us." He is mighty to save. Nothing at all can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:28-35). So where is your faith? If it is in Christ Jesus, then remember He is greater than all. So your faith can always be greater than your fear, as you trust and obey by His power within! ☐