

Lesson 257

Jesus Calms the Stormy Sea

Story Elements



- **Text:** Mark 4:35-41 (also Matt. 8:18, 23-27; Luke 8:22-25)
 - **Setting:** circa AD 28 in Galilee
 - **Characters:** God, Jesus, and the disciples.
 - **Plot:** Jesus calms a raging storm while sailing across the Sea of Galilee.
 - **Key word(s):** “O ye of _____ faith?” This story illustrates the need for a faith that trusts Christ even when it is difficult.
 - **Climax:** *Matthew 8:26 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? Weak faith breeds strong fear.*
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Big Crowd

- 1) (vv 35-36) After ministering on the crowded western side of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus proposed to go to the other side, the eastern shore, where there were _____ people and perhaps a chance for a reprieve from the hectic healing and teaching ministry.
 - a) The disciples *took him even as he was in the ship*. Edersheim explains that this phrase means “...without refreshment of _____, or even preparation of it for the journey. This indicates how readily, nay, eagerly, the disciples obeyed the behest.”¹
 - b) Jesus had already been in a boat that he used as a speaking platform; the disciples (many who were experienced _____) simply launched from the shore where Christ was preaching, followed by other boats.
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Big Storm

- 2) (v 37) As the fleet of small vessels made its way to the eastern shore, a fierce storm arose – a storm so fierce that even experienced sailors feared they would _____.
- 3) (v 38) But Jesus, laying on a pillow in the back of the boat, was fast asleep.
 - a) This shows us a striking picture of Christ's _____: exhausted after a long preaching crusade, even a violent storm could not wake him from his slumber. Edersheim reminds us that “it is characteristic of the History of the Christ...that every deepest manifestation of His Humanity is immediately attended by highest display of His Divinity, and each special display of His Divine Power followed by some marks of His true Humanity.”²
 - b) The doctrine of Christ's humanity is as important as his divinity – we need a Savior who is both God and _____.
- 4) In a panic, the disciples woke Jesus from his deep sleep, exclaiming, *Master, carest thou not that we _____?*

APPLICATION ➔ In Matthew's account, the disciples cried *Lord, save us: we perish!* Spurgeon described their reactions this way: “Little faith prayed ‘Save us’; much fear cried ‘we perish’”. Men in a storm cannot be very select in their language, but they learn to be very earnest and eager.”³ Though their faith was little and the fear strong, they still called out to their Lord and were _____. Here is comfort for the storm-tossed Christian.

¹ Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1971) Part 1, 599.

² Ibid., 600.

³ Charles Spurgeon, *An Exposition of Matthew, the Gospel of the Kingdom* (Springfield: Particular Baptist Press, 2015) 52.

Small Faith

- 5) (v 39) The Savior simply spoke the word and willed the storm into submission - "Peace, be _____." The violent waves did not slowly subside but were immediately calmed at the Christ's command.
- 6) (v 40) Jesus then asks the disciples, *Why are you so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?* What do you think Jesus meant by this? Notice:
 - a) They had _____ faith, for they went to him for help.
 - b) Yet Jesus calls their faith "little" (Matt. 8:26) and asks "where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25). Matthew Henry explains: "Not that the disciples were without faith. No, they believed that *Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God*; but at this time their _____ prevailed so that they seemed to *have no faith* at all."⁴

APPLICATION➔ Though we understand the disciples fear under the circumstances, yet we also see the rebuke by Jesus was well deserved. We are guilty of the same lack of faith when trouble and turmoil cause us to question God's goodness and love. On this, Ryle notes, "Where is the profit of believing, if they could not believe in time of need? Where was the value of faith, unless they kept it in active exercise? Where was the benefit of trusting, if they were to trust their Master in sunshine only, but not in storms?"⁵

- 7) (v 41) The frightened disciples go from fear of the storm to fear of the _____. They ask, *What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*
- a) This shows that the disciples were still coming to terms as to Christ's _____ and what it meant for him to be the Messiah.
 - b) The disciples *marveled*, but we _____: we are struck by this scene of Christ who can speak but a word and stop one of the most powerful earthly forces, and yet a few moments earlier was so exhausted in his body that he slept through a violent (and soaking) storm.

APPLICATION➡ As we see Christ's humanity (exhaustion in body) and deity (power over the storm) vividly portrayed together, we are comforted knowing that the God-Man is our High Priest that understands our condition and yet *ever liveth to make intercession* for us. (Heb. 7:25)

[illegible]

Answer Key: key word(s) "little" • 1. fewer; a) food; b) fisherman • 2) drown • 3) a) humanity; b) man • 4) perish; ➔ heard • 5) still • 6) a); some; b) fears • 7) Savior; a) nature; b) adore

⁴ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1786.

⁵ J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospel, Volume II* (Grand Rapids: Baker Books; 2007) 265.