

The Miracles of Jesus

Lesson Sixteen

Calming the Stormy Sea

Text: Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

Introduction:

1. Jesus has begun His second tour of Galilee.
2. Immediately, He was confronted by the Pharisees and accused of serving Satan.
3. Following their blasphemy, they audaciously asked Jesus for a sign (Matt. 12:38-45)!
4. After these events, Jesus began to teach what we call the first group of parables (Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8).
5. On the evening of this day of teaching, Jesus and the twelve departed by ship to reach the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

I. The Miracle

- A. Before Jesus and His disciples entered into the ship, they departed from the crowd.
 1. This may have been for Him to explain the parables to them (Matthew 13:36; Mark 4:34).
 2. Yet, it seems that some followed Him in little boats (Mark 4:36).
- B. While they were in the boat on the lake – and while Jesus slept – a great storm arose.
 1. Mark calls it a “great storm” – literally, a mega squall or whirlwind.
 2. Matthew calls it a “great tempest” – literally, a mega commotion or shaking. {*The Greek word is seismos. When used of the ground it means an earthquake.*}
 3. Luke calls it a “storm of wind” that “came down” upon them. *This is an apt scientific description of cool air from the hills colliding with warm air on the sea.*
 4. Compare this with Jonah 1:4.
- C. Very quickly, the ship was swamped and began filling rapidly with water.
 1. Matthew says that the ship was covered (or, hidden) by the waves.
 2. Mark says the waves beat into the ship and it began filling with water.
- D. The situation was serious, for Luke says that they were in jeopardy, peril or danger.
- E. So, the disciples awoke Jesus in their fear and anxiety.
 1. According to Luke, they cried, “Master, Master, we perish.”
 2. According to Matthew, it was a cry for help – “Lord, save us: we perish.”
 3. According to Mark, there was rebuke in their words, “Master, carest thou not that we perish?”
- F. Jesus arose and calmed the storm with the power of His words.
 1. He rebuked the wind – literally, He censured, admonished, forbade the wind.
 2. He spoke to the sea – “Peace (literally, Silence), be still (lit., muzzled, quiet).”
- G. The wind and the raging of the water ceased and there was a great calm (tranquility).

II. The Manifestation

- A. Jesus demonstrated His power of the mighty forces of nature.
- B. Thus, He again proved that He is in control of the world – He is God.

III. The Message

- A. Fear is a lack of faith.
- B. Jesus cares!
- C. With Jesus, there is calm in the midst of any storm.