

Cold Water Quenched the Disciples' Faith

Sea of Galilee

13 miles long

7½ miles wide

680 ft below
sea level

Mount Hermon

(9200) feet

Cold gusts mix
with warm
breezes of
Mediterranean
and warm air
hovering over
Galilee



Fishing boat, found at Ginosar, 1986
(2000 years old – between 40 BC – AD 50)



(27 feet long by 7.5-feet wide)
(Cedar, pine, jujube, willow, and oak)



Mk.4:38

Language of panic – some shout one thing, some another. “Perishing”

1. Lord’s peaceful sleep illustrates perfect trust and absence of fear.
2. “He” = emphatic (very distinct from the terrified crew).
3. Mark: ‘Do you not care...?’

Panic / fear can destroy our faith,
or it can deploy our faith (1 Pt.5:7)

I. Everybody talks about
the weather, but . . .

Jesus, like Jonah, is awakened by a frightened crew

- Jonah could pray, but could not stop a storm
- Contrast Jesus. Mt.12⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here.

Why do disciples wake Jesus?

- Ask Him to pray (as Jonah)?
- ...or worry with them?

Jesus rebuked disciples

To follow Jesus does not always guarantee smooth sailing or sunny skies.

- How does Lord's almighty power affect us?
 - Does fear rule our life?
 - Does fear crush our faith?

Jesus rebuked disciples

- “Isn’t it natural to be afraid in storm at sea?”
- Herod, James, Peter – Acts 12 ... 1 Pt.5:7
 - Ac.5:41, attitude: So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.
 - Ac.5:42, actions: And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
- Ro.10:17, trust comes from Lord’s word →
Mk.4:35

- Acts 27: Lord did not calm the storm for Paul (as for men of little faith, Mk.4)
- Lord can save us from trouble or in trouble: 2 Co.4¹, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God
- God can save us from death or in death, Ac.12 – James / Peter

I. Everybody talks about the weather but . . .

II. Everybody knows that trouble comes to those who deserve it (?)

Jesus, not His disciples, called for this crossing

- Disciples were not doing wrong...storm was not their fault
- Storms (hard times) don't always imply disobedience
- *“No waters can swallow the ship, where lies, the Master of ocean and earth and skies.”*
- When disciples were with Jesus, they were in safest place on earth.
- Faithful child of God can hope in life or death

I. Everybody talks about the weather but . . .

II. Everybody knows: trouble comes to the
deserving (?)

**III. Everybody knows that Jesus
was just a man (?)**

Disciples see His humanity

- He is tired, sleepy

Disciples see His deity

- Almighty power over nature
 - Why come to Jesus (a carpenter) for help? Bale water?
 - Jonah, a man, was saved by a miracle; Jesus saved others by a miracle.
 - What mere man could do what Jesus did?

- Gn.1:1-3 . . . Jn.1:1-3 – more than a man
- What skeptic can duplicate what Jesus did?
- “If Jesus is God, how could Jews kill Him?

Anyone who can still a storm CANNOT be killed by wicked men...unless He allows it.

- Highlights love of Messiah
- He conquered death with resurrection

- Fear and faith are contrary – as disciples facing a storm.
- Fear and faith are consistent – as disciples fear the incredible power of Jesus.
 - Some fear is good . . .
- Ph.2¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling
- Hb.12²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear