

# Faith in Life's Storms\_Outline

Thursday, October 31, 2013  
8:16 AM

Key Words: faith, fear, storms of life, purpose

Reading: Matthew 8:1-27

Focus Text: Matthew 8:23-27

Sermon Audio Blurb: In Matthew 8-9 Jesus demonstrates his power and authority through deeds. In Matthew 8:23-27 he calms a storm and the fears of the disciples. If we can trust Jesus for the forgiveness of sin cannot we not trust him in the midst of life's storms.

Introduction

-Building faith and calming fears

## I. The Situation (vss 23-24)

A. Jesus got into the boat ( And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him , vs 23)

### 1. Connects with vs 8:18

a. Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. (Matthew 8:18 ESV)

b. Matt. 8:1-4

1) Following the Sermon on the Mount, "great crowds followed him (vs 1)

2) Healing of a leper and the leper's sufficient faith (Lord if you are willing, vss 2-4)

c. Matt. 8:5-13

1) The sufficient faith of a Gentile military officer

2) Kingdom open to Gentiles who believe Messiah

3) Sons of the kingdom thrown into darkness for not believing Messiah

d. Matt. 8:14-17

1) Healing of Peter's mother-in-law (vss 14-15)

2) Casting out of demons (vs 16)

3) Isa. 53, Messiah as healer (vs 17)

### 2. Long day(s) of ministry

- a. Relief from the crowds who were following him
3. An interruption
- a. Some followed for the wrong reasons or half-heartily (vss 19-22)
    - 1) Scribe: I will follow you wherever you go
      - a) Sounds noble but Jesus' answer regarding the 'Son of Man' having no place to lay his head indicates that the Scribe's motivation for following Jesus were less than honorable (crowds, miracles, enthusiasm, etc)
      - b) Implications of truly following Jesus are self-denial, sacrifice, service and suffering)
    - 2) The disciple: Let me bury my father
      - a) Many suggestions for why Jesus said, "let the dead bury the dead."
      - b) Maybe the best is kingdom priorities super cede family priorities and that at that moment Jesus told his disciples to "follow him into the boat"
      - c) Whatever we may conclude about the reasons we can be assured that the disciple needed to hear what Jesus said.
  - b. Some followed willingly (vs 23b)
    - 1) Other disciples made following Jesus a priority
    - 2) Mark 4:37 indicates that other boats were involved thus suggesting more than 12 disciples were following along
- B. A Great Storm (vs 24)
- 1. Sea of Galilee (13 miles in length, 7 1/2 miles wide)
    - a. Lake was known for sudden changes
    - b. Lake is in a depression called the Jordan Rift Valley where cool air from Mt. Hermon collides with the warm air within the Galilee basin
  - 2. Tempest
    - a. Shaking or shock, usually applied to an earthquake (seismos)
    - a. A great wind that could make your home shake
  - 3. Boat being swamped
    - a. Small boat but could seat 10-12 people

b. Waves coming over the side-danger real

c. Experienced fishermen unable to control the craft-panic ensues

C. Jesus asleep

1. Mark notes "on a cushion"

2. Jesus very tired (human)

3. Jesus trust in his heavenly Father was unfaltering. (Hendricksen)

a. Implication is that we can lay our fears to rest when we trust God in situations that we cannot control nor influence.

II. The Disciples Reaction (And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing, vs 25)

A. Jesus, wake up!

1. Unable to control the craft they appeal to Jesus for help

2. Having been with Jesus hearing his words and witnessed miracles they are beginning to see Jesus as a bit more than an average carpenter\rabbi.

3. Yet perhaps, they do not fully believe Jesus can do something versus a violent storm (vs 27)

4. The disciples are mixture of fear and faith and at the moment fear/panic is dominating.

B. Save us!

1. Literally "save us from the storm"

2. Kyrie soston survives with added meaning in the Christian community and has a salvific sense

3. Matt. 9:1-8

a. People bring a paralytic to Jesus and when he sees their faith to heal he says...

1) "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven."

b. Scribes think blasphemy because only God forgives sins

1) Jesus knows their hearts and ask what is easier, to forgive sin or tell a paralytic to get up and walk?

2) Jesus says that they may know he has the authority to forgive sins he heals the paralytic

c. Crowds react in fear, but glorify God

1) Matthew 8-9 six miracles prove Jesus' authority over sickness, demons, nature and his authority to forgive sin and save sinners, hence kyrie soston

- 2) Faith increases as knowledge increases
- 3) Can Jesus cast out demons, heal the sick, calm a storm-Yes.
- 4) Far more important than he can forgive sins
- 5) Saving faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God. (Grudem)
- 6) If you can trust Jesus for your salvation can you not trust him in life's storms?

C. We are perishing

1. Full blown panic mode
2. Some variation in the Gospels as to who said what.
3. Lots of things were probably said by 10+ panicky men but the consensus was, we are done for.

III. Jesus's Response (vs 26)

A. Why are you afraid?

1. Seems obvious, if ever there was reason to panic that had to be it
2. Disciples were right to approach Jesus.
  - a. Hoped he could do something or why bother?
  - b. Some commentators translate, "why so cowardly"?
  - c. Connecting cowardice to the panic-stricken approach to Jesus

B. O you of little faith

1. Why the rebuke?
  - a. Not rebuked for coming to him to save them...
  - b. Rebuked for coming to him in fear.
  - c. Judging from the chronology they should have had more confidence.
    - 1) Son of Man more than a carpenter
2. The nature of the rebuke
  - a. Little faith means insufficient faith
  - b. Contrast the disciples faith with that of the Centurion (Matt. 8:5-13)

- 1) A shunned Roman military man seeks healing for a paralyzed servant.
- 2) Jesus offers to come and heal, the officer says Jesus need only speak a word
- 3) Jesus has not seen such faith in all Israel.
  - a) Centurion's faith is not deficient, it is sufficient

3. Matt. 8:14-17

- a. Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law
- b. Jesus casts out demons and heals more people who are sick
- c. Jesus demonstrating that he can reverse the effects of the Fall (Gen. 3:16-19)
- d. My opinion, but I do not think the rebuke was severe even though we see cowardice as something requiring a severe rebuke. But given the circumstances, I think the rebuke is mild, and Jesus wants to use the opportunity as a faith builder.

- 1) Your view of who I am is still too small, let's give it a boost!

C. Rebuke of the storm (Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm vs 26.)

1. Jesus revealed in power (Son of Man)

- a. "I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.  
And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,  
that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.  
(Daniel 7:13-14 ESV)

b. But all must be fulfilled first (Matt. 16:21-23)

1. The progressive unveiling of Messiah and the contrast between God's awesome power and His son suffering and dying for our sins.

2. Jesus calms the storm but also calms their fears

IV. The Disciple's Reaction ( And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?" vs 27)

A. What sort of man is this?

1. A statement of amazement and a rhetorical question.
  2. What other person can get the winds and the waves to obey him?
  3. Jesus is sovereign over nature and has authority!
    - a. The Storm Hurler (and the one who calms the storm).
      - 1) Job 30:22 You lift me up on the wind, you make me ride upon it, and you toss me about in the roar of the storm.
      - 2) Jonah 1:7-16
    - b. How does it help us to understand that God is the Storm Hurler in the first place?
    - c. Do we know that while the storm is not fun, that God has purpose?
- B. The thrust of the passage to all subsequent believers
1. What threatens us? What causes us to fear?
  2. What if?
  3. What will our prayers look like?
    - a. Panic and desperation?
    - b. Or confidence in Him who is in control and has purpose?
- C. Consider the Old Testament Saints (help for today)
1. Noah: Do not fear the mockery of the people, trust me, I have purpose.
  2. Abraham: Do not fear for your son Isaac, trust me, I have purpose.
  3. Joseph: Do not fear. Trust me, your suffering has purpose.
  4. Ruth: Do not fear in your loneliness. Trust me, I have purpose.
  5. Job: Do not fear. Your suffering is great but so is my purpose.
  6. David. Do not fear. Your sin has created a family mess but my grace is greater than your sin
- D. Heart level questions in life's storms because Jesus is in your boat)
- 1) Is it true you can't take it anymore? (Why are you afraid?)
  - 2) What does God's Word say about your time of trial and difficulty? (sufficiency of the Word)
  - 3) Is it possible that God is refining you through this storm? (purpose of a storm?)
  - 4) Have you trained yourself to respond in this way? (habitual responses to life's difficulties)

- 5) How can you glorify God in the midst of the storm? (panic or prayer?)
- 6) Is there a demand that your perceived rights and needs to be met? What if they are not? (What do you believe about life in a fallen world? What do you think you deserve? Instead of asking, why me, ask, why not me?)
- 7) Is your heart truly submitted to the will and sovereignty of God? (What has God actually promised those who have trusted in Christ?)
- 8) Does the Bible teach that God loves you? Do you believe the Bible? (If you doubt God's love then cast your eyes on the Cross.)
- 9) What does the Bible say about your fear? (for example, Matt. 6:19-34)
- 10) Is Jesus in the boat with me? (for example, John 14:18-31)

Prayer: Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16 ESV)

#### Questions for Community Groups

1. What was one of the most scary situation you were ever in?
2. What do you fear the most? Another way to ask this is to ask, what do you treasure the most?
3. Are you more given to panic than prayer when fearful? What has to happen for that to change?