

Weaving the Word

Calming the Storm

Part 64 – February 5, 2017

Welcome to where we build our faith to battle the storms!

How often do you wait till it's too late to pray? Marriage. Finances. Family. Health.

Before the crisis, there's not a lot of seeking wisdom to align *our* will through *His* Word.

During the crisis, we cry out for *many* things, usually relating to changing *others* or our *circumstances* to solve our problem. But, **somewhere deep in the crisis**, there comes a moment when we shut up and listen, and look inward, and face what we need to see and change *in us*.

And, *that's* when we *really* pray. (Ecc 5:1-2) **How often do I wait till it's too late to pray? On one hand, almost always; on the other, it's never too late to pray.**



And, that's what we see on Jesus' big day, in Capernaum, His hometown. The sun has set on this Sabbath day.

The people earlier refuse to come and be healed when He offers *His* rest on the Day of Rest.



But now, at sunset, they come to ask for a miracle in their crisis, on *their schedule*. So, He leaves 'em to teach 'em that that's not how *that* works. **He does the asking, and on His timetable, especially during the storms; because, that's the only time He gets our full attention.**



He's about to send out 72 of His 84 disciples, to speak and heal and deal with demons by His *power* and *authority*, (Lk 10:1) which means they need to experience a full display for *themselves*.

He's got a lot of faith to build and little time to do it. So, He orders 'em in the boats at the most perilous possible time.



Cold night air channels down Mt Hermon to the warm air of the 8x13 mile lake, often creating sudden, violent, storms.

In a 1992 storm, they recorded 12' waves!¹

¹ From BiblePlaces.com, Todd Bolen, Editor and Assoc. Professor, The Master's College, Israel

This 1890s photo (below) on Capernaum's shore shows the type of boats they used.



And, this 27', 15 passenger, boat dates to Jesus' day, and was preserved in the mud off the shores where He taught!

Let's weave [Mat 8:23-27](#); [Mark 4:36-41](#); and [Luke 8:23-25](#).



So Then Leaving the crowd behind, he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. they got into a boat took him along, just as he was, and set out **There were also other boats with him.** [about five more] As they sailed, he fell asleep. Without warning, a furious **storm** [*seismos: shaking*] **squall** [*lailaps: furious gusts with floods of rain; a twister revolving upwards*] **came up** [in whirlwinds] and **came down** [in buckets] on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. so that the boat was nearly being swamped, and they were in great danger.

Three different words are used to describe what those waves do:

1. **Mark:** [*epiballō*] *rush upon*. The waves conduct a sudden, relentless, attack.
2. **Matthew:** [*kalyptō*] *to hide or veil*. They're so big, the boats lose sight of each other.
3. **Luke:** [*symplēroō*] *to fill completely*. They can't row, sail, or even bail fast enough.

But Jesus was in the stern, [*in the back*] sleeping on a cushion. The disciples went and woke him, saying, "**Lord, save us!**" "**Master, Master, we're going to drown!**"

There are two reasons He's able to sleep through this: 1) He's exhausted; and 2) No one had asked for His help. **How long do you suppose they battled things on their own, before turning to Him?** Based on, "we're going to drown!" I'd say, the usual 'too long'. And, as usual, when we wait too long, they're nerves are *frazzled*.

and said to him, "Teacher, **don't you care if we drown?**" [*More accusation than question*]

Why? Well, **He's obviously not responding with the sense of urgency their frayed emotions now demand.** But then, *whose fault is that?*

I remember accidentally kicking on a claw-foot tub faucet, while taking a bath, at my grandma's old farmhouse, and panicking, because I was too young to understand how to make it stop. I ran down the stairs screaming for help; and, grandma was *so frustratingly calm*. Walked *so slow*. And, when she *finally* shut it off, the water was only about a foot from going over. *Close one.*

So, for this lesson, **Jesus stays on His cushion** and looks at 'em!

He replied, "**You of little faith, why are you so afraid?**" **Then** he got up ...

But, what did He expect? These are fragile, drown-able, humans!

Most of 'em don't even have a *Jesus* in their boat! And yet, **He expects their faith to overcome their fear.** Otherwise, He won't be able to send 'em out in His power and authority. **He expects us to know exactly who He is, and to act accordingly.**

[Because] Faith comes from **hearing the message**, and the message **is heard** through the **word** of Christ. – Romans 10:17 NIV

So, there's no excuse. They had seen that He could do anything that God's Word said the Savior would do. And God's Word says, *"You are mighty, O Lord, and ... You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them."* (Psalm 89:8b-9)



Others went out on the sea in ships ... They saw the works of the Lord ... For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. ... in their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunken men; **they were at their wits' end.** **Then** they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. – Psalm 107:23-29 NIV

If they'd had it set in their hearts that *He's this Guy*, they would've called on Him much sooner and a whole lot calmer. But, **they were "of little faith", conviction, confidence, understanding.** And, **we limit Him by our limited knowledge of Him.** So, He sends 'em out to sea, 'cause they need to see just how grossly they underestimate and rely on His *true* power and authority. **When He asks, "Why are you so afraid?" He's not saying they shouldn't be afraid; He's asking them, in that moment, to answer the question.** He's not scolding. He's teaching. Mentoring. Preparing.

The critical factor in faith isn't its strength, but its object.

Frantically: "Don't you *care* if we drown?"

Calmly: "Don't you *know* my Word?"

He can be so frustrating that way! But, time is of the essence, so He gives 'em the answer before asking the question: **"You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" "Uh ... because, we're of little faith?" "Correct! Okay. Good talk."**

Then he got up and rebuked the **winds** and said to the **waves**, and the **raging waters**; **"Quiet! Be still!"** Then the wind died down and the storm subsided, and all was calm. it was **completely calm.** He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

We'll *never* read this correctly, or grasp His point as deeply, if we don't picture His cushion, and that furious squall, and the fact that He repeats Himself before and after calming it. **[Loudly over the storm]** "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" **[Getting up]** "Quiet! Be still!" **[Calmly after the storm]** "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

"Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

"I can see it's not anywhere here in the boat; so, where on earth have you place it?"

There are **two miracles** here. The winds cease when He says, “*Quiet!*” And, that’s *incredible*. But then, when He says, “*Be still!*” **the waves suddenly, simultaneously, collapse and calm at His command**. And so, as they looked out at the sea ...

The men were amazed [and *then*, when it settled in, and they looked back at *Him*]
They were terrified and In **fear and amazement** asked each other, “What kind of man **is** this? they asked one another, “Who **is** this? He commands even the winds and the water, **and the waves obey him!**”

Now, we’re prayin’! Asking ourselves what we need to answer!

This purposely parallels Jonah. In a boat. On a sea. Great wind. Violent storm. Impending doom. Frightened sailors. Crying out. And, waking Jonah who is soundly sleeping in the storm. “*How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god!*” (Jonah 1:6b)



Ever notice Jesus doesn’t call on God? **Every great prophet has to call on God. Except Jesus. He is God.**

And, **don’t underestimate the terror of suddenly realizing you’re trapped in a boat with the actual, omnipotent ... GOD.** I picture these guys crowding the bow, like the boy on the lifeboat in the “*Life of Pi*”, with a different lion.

They’re more afraid of Jesus than they were the storm. And, that’s as it should be. **He’s infinitely more powerful than any big ol’ whirlwind or wave.** And, they’re beginning to realize who they have in their boat. Are you? Or, **are you still leaving Him in the back, while you try to fight the storm, man the oars, and bail yourself out?**

How do we show Him that we know Him? Trust. Faith. Peace. Calm. Trust is a barometer of faith. And, **calm is a barometer of trust.** Let’s face it, He puts us in the path of a lot of storms we won’t, and shouldn’t, like; and, can’t possibly understand. But, **in everything, we can trust, because of who He is.**

“Don’t you care if we drown?!”

“Yes! But, you still might drown. Still trust Me?”

If Jesus is God, then He’s more than powerful to have powerful reasons to let us experience what we can’t comprehend ... yet. So, if you’re upset with Him for not calming your storm, you believe He has the power to calm the storm; so, how can you not trust that He has a powerful reason for not calming the storm? Can’t have it both ways; believing He has the power, but not the authority. **If His power is limitless so are his wisdom and love.**

So, **whatever storm you’re facing, Jesus would say to you. Loudly over the storm: “Why are you so afraid?”** Calmly after the storm: *“Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”*