

## When God's in the Boat (Luke 8:22-25)

### I. Introduction

#### A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. Jesus goes with us through the storms of life.
2. Jesus wants a faith response from His disciples.
3. Jesus will come to us when we call out.
4. Jesus wants us to focus on Him in faith.
5. Faith in Jesus pleases God the Father.

**Question:** Putting things into context. How did we get to the Sea of Galilee?

#### B. Below is a Summary of Jesus' Early Ministry.

1. Luke 3:23 says, "And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli."
2. Matthew 4:1 says, "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."
3. John 1:29 says, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."
4. John and Andrew were disciples of John the Baptist. When Jesus came to them, they left the Baptist and went with Jesus. John 1:37 says, "And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus."
5. They spent the entire day with Jesus (John 1:39). When they left him, they went and told their brothers (James and Peter). These four disciples would become part of Jesus' inner circle.
6. Philip and Nathaniel also joined the four to be with Jesus.
7. In John 2, Jesus and His first six disciples went to a wedding in Cana, and there Jesus turned the water into wine. In John 2:13, Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover, and the six apparently went back to their homes. The Bible does not indicate that they stayed with Jesus after the marriage feast.
8. Luke 5:10-11 says, "And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him."
9. In Luke 5:23-25, Jesus healed a man that was sick with the palsy.
10. In Luke 7:10, Jesus healed a centurion's child.

#### C. The disciples saw everything, but they did not understand.

**Question:** How do you know that Jesus can be trusted? How do you know that all of this Bible stuff really is true? Do you really believe?

### II. Trusting the Bible.

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- A. We know that Jesus can be trusted and that the Bible is true because of the Holy Spirit and the great devotion of those that compiled the books of the Bible.
1. John 14:26 says, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
  2. John 15:26 says, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"
  3. John 16:13 says, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
  4. We can trust the Old Testament because of the highly accurate quality of the copies. The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Massoretic manuscripts were copied about 1,100 years apart. Yet they are almost identical.
  5. We can trust the New Testament because of the high number of manuscript copies. Over 10,000 New Testament manuscripts have been preserved from the First Century.
- B. The conclusion is that the Bible can be trusted and that it teaches an individual how to can enter into a personal relationship with one's God and Creator. A second conclusion is that the Lord can be trusted.
- C. We know by experience that Jesus can be trusted, and the disciples were starting to learn that, too. When the seas grew rough, they called on Him.
- D. *Have you ever been in a situation where only the Lord could help you?*
- III. In Luke 8:22-25, the disciples turned to Jesus for help, and He did not let them down.
- A. The reason for their need was the rough seas.
1. The Sea of Galilee can become very stormy and boisterous without much warning.
  2. The disciples were caught in their boat during one of those storms.
  3. The disciples were professional fishermen, but they were afraid.
  4. Maybe the storm was much worse than normal because the Lord wanted them to learn more Him and more about themselves.
    - a. They could be easily frightened.
    - b. There were some situations that they could not handle.
    - c. Jesus can do anything
- B. Jesus' comparative attributes.
1. Jesus is omniscient - He knows everything.
  2. Jesus is omnipresent - He can be everywhere at the same time.
  3. Jesus is omnipotent - He is all-powerful.
  4. The incarnation - when Jesus became a human, He voluntarily gave up the free use of His comparative attributes.

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- a. The kenosis - Philippians 2:7 says, "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:"
  - b. "Of no reputation" (*kenoo*) - of Christ, he laid aside equality with or the form of God.
  - c. Mark 13:32 says, "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father."
  - d. The Quarterly pointed out that Jesus experienced human exhaustion (Luke 8:23).
- C. Calling on the Lord was the right decision. The disciples did not have the New Testament, but they had the Old Testament, which is also full of promises to those that call upon the Lord.
1. Psalms 4:3 says, "But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him."
  2. Psalms 18:3 says, "I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies."
  3. Psalms 55:16 says, "As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me."
  4. Psalms 55:22 says, "Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."
  5. Psalms 86:5 says, "For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee."
  6. Psalms 116:13 says, "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD."
    - a. Salvation (*y@shuw`ah*) - deliverance or salvation (by God).
    - b. Saved (Romans 10:13 - *sozo*) - to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction.
    - c. Old Testament and New Testament salvation were achieved in the same way, by calling upon the Lord.
- D. The disciples did not yet possess the faith that they would someday possess. We grow in faith as we mature in the Lord. The Quarterly made several observations about them. Those same observations are often true of us, too.
1. The disciples were devoted but distrusting followers. They did not fully trust Jesus to take care of them.
  2. The disciples were double-minded followers. They thought that they were going to perish.
  3. The disciples were dumbfounded when they saw His power over the weather.
- E. This example of the disciples is similar to the children of Israel in the Wilderness with Moses.
1. The disciples thought that they were going to perish. The children of Israel thought that they had been brought into the Wilderness to die (Exodus 14:11).

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2. The disciples did not fully trust Jesus to take care of them, and the children of Israel did not fully trust God to take care of them. When it was time for them to enter Canaan, they were afraid because of the challenge of taking the land (Numbers 13:31-33).
3. Where is our faith when times are tough? Are we like the children of Israel in the Wilderness, like the disciples in the boat, or are we fully trusting in the Lord to carry us through?

**Question:** The Quarterly pointed out that following Christ is not a safeguard against trials and tribulations. Why not?

IV. Acts, chapter nine has the answer. Acts 9:15-16 says, "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: **For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.**"

V. Next week's lesson: Separated, Sent, and Successful (Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-20)