





Who Is This?

Matthew 8:23-27

Mark 4:35-41

Luke 8:22-25

Psalm 107

Life of Jesus: Miracles

Mark's account seems to indicate that Jesus had been teaching to a crowd from a ship. Other stories in the Gospels mention that Jesus taught from a boat.

Discuss:

Sound experiments have been done in recent years in the areas where Jesus taught; the land was shaped around a cove.

If Jesus was speaking from a boat pushed slightly offshore, he would have been heard for quite a distance because of the way the sound carried over the water and land.

There were other little ships with him, and possibly people were listening from these ships.

Evening has come, and the crowd has been sent home. The disciples get into the ship with Jesus. He says, "Let us go to the other side," and they launch off the boats. This is clear, Jesus said, "*Let us go to the other side,*" He is expecting to get to the other side.

As they sail, Jesus falls asleep in the back part of the boat on a pillow.

A great storm came up on the sea; it was a really big storm. The wind was very strong, and it made huge waves. The waves hit the ship and filled the boat with water.

Discuss:

Talk about storms.

Have you been caught in a storm?

This was a really big storm. The wind came in on the lake and made huge waves.

What happens when a boat is full of water? It is eventually going to sink.

What do you do when a boat fills with water?

You try as quickly as you can to get all the water out of the boat.

The disciples were in a panic. They woke Jesus up and told him they were going to drown. The disciples actually accused Jesus of not caring that they were going to die. This was not a large boat, and it is amazing that Jesus was able to sleep through the storm. This shows that Jesus had total peace; so much so that he was able to rest calmly while the windstorm violently rocked the boat and water washed over him. When the disciples asked him, "Don't you care that we are going to die?", it shows how much they did not know about Jesus. Just because Jesus was not panicking, that doesn't mean he did not care; he was simply confident that they were going to make it safely to the other side.

Do we do this? Do we sometimes try to bring other people into our fear and doubt? When we are worried about a situation, and other people are trusting the Lord and not completely panicked, can we sometimes think they don't care? Maybe they have more trust and have placed more value in what the Lord said, "Let's go to the other side." God has this; he will bring us through to the other side.



Who Is This?

Jesus got up and rebuked the winds and the sea.

The words he used in Mark are interesting. He said,

“Peace, be still,”

The Greek word used for “peace” means to hush, inability to speak, involuntary stillness, muteness, to be silent. This is essentially saying, “Be QUIET!” The Greek word for “be still” is also a verb and means to close the mouth with a muzzle, stop the mouth, make speechless. Jesus is in control here and is harnessing the powers of the storm.

As soon as Jesus spoke, the wind stopped, and there was a great calm.

This was not a gradual process; it seems to have happened instantly. If it were gradual, the people could have attributed it to natural forces. But it happened suddenly.

Jesus then speaks to the disciples,

“Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Matthew says, “little faith” and Luke simply says, “Where is your faith?” Just before this, Jesus had healed a leper, the centurion’s servant, and healed ‘many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word and healed all that were sick.’

The disciples are absolutely amazed. It says they were actually very afraid. They still do not have a full understanding of *who* Jesus really is. They said to each other, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!” In other words, who is this guy? No one can control the weather - but the wind and the sea obey him.

Then they arrive at their destination, which is the country of the Gadarenes in the Gentile region.

Jesus in the Story



This story has parallel references throughout the Bible.

This event involving the Messiah is prophesied in Psalm 107:23-31.

Psalm 107 speaks of fishermen, men who do business in great waters, who see the works of the Lord and his wonders in the deep. Verse 25 says that the Lord raises the stormy wind, and lifts up the waves. Their souls melted, or they lost their courage. Then they cry to the Lord, he saves them and makes the storm calm and stills the waves. They are glad and praise him for his goodness.

Does the story of Jesus calming the storm remind you of an Old Testament story? There are many parallels between this story and the book of Jonah. Jesus told the Pharisees and Sadducees several times that

“This evil generation seeks after a sign, and there would be no sign given, but the sign of the prophet Jonah” (Matthew 12:38-41; 16:4; Luke 11:29-32).

Both stories involve going to the Gentiles. Jonah was told by the Lord to go to the Gentile city of Nineveh, but Jonah ran from the Lord and was on a boat going the opposite direction to Tarshish. Jonah did not want to see God’s mercy on the Gentiles. Jesus was on his way to the Gadarenes, to willingly bring freedom to the people in the Gentile region. In both accounts, the Lord caused the storm. In Jonah we are told that the Lord sent a great wind, and we read in Psalm 107 that the Lord raised a stormy wind.

In both boats, the sailors and the disciples are terrified. The sailors in Jonah’s boat are crying out to their gods, and the disciples are fearful and ask Jesus to do something.

Jonah slept through a storm on the side of the ship; Jesus was asleep at the back part of the ship near the rudder. The reader is uncertain as to why Jonah sleeps through the storm. The reader may assume that Jesus sleeps because he has perfect peace and confidence that they will safely make it to the other side.

The sailors wake Jonah up and tell him to call on his God. But notice, Jonah does not pray to God about the storm. After lots are cast, Jonah admits that the storm came because of him and suggests they throw him overboard. The sailors row very hard to get to land but are not able. They cry to the Lord, Jonah’s God, begging not to die for Jonah’s sake, and that they are not blamed for throwing Jonah overboard. Reluctantly they throw Jonah into the raging sea, and it is immediately calm.

In a similar fashion, the disciples wake Jesus up, telling him they are about to die. But in contrast to Jonah, Jesus takes authority over the storm and commands the wind to stop and the waves to be still.

Men in both boats are very afraid. The sailors offer sacrifices and make vows to the Lord. What began as an a life threatening situation because of Jonah results in their being saved and serving the Lord.

The disciples are also very afraid. They asked Jesus to “Save us,” but when he does they seem surprised and amazed. Jesus does not make it easy on the disciples; he is frustrated. He asks them, “Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith, “and “Where is your faith?”

The disciples ask, “Who is this man that the wind and sea obey him?”

They are his disciples, but do not seem to understand exactly *who* he is, and the authority that he holds.

Jesus told the Jews that the sign of Jonah is the only sign they would receive. This is one of several instances in the Bible where we see that Jesus and Jonah intersect.

When we face fear and storms in our lives, it reveals what is in our hearts.

Jesus in the Story



The condition of your heart is a recurring theme that runs throughout the whole Bible, and one which Jesus continually emphasizes. When we are faced with adversity, do we become fearful, or do we stand confident in our faith knowing WHO our Savior is, and what He is capable of?

Look again at Psalm 107. Look at verses 6, 14, 19 and 28.

What are the people doing? Crying to the Lord. What is his response? He delivered them and saved them from their distress.

The verses in Psalm 7, 14, 20, and 29 tell in what way he delivered them. Now look at verses 8, 15, 21, and 31. What does the Lord want us to do in response to him delivering us out of trouble and distress? He wants us to “Praise him for his goodness, and for his wonderful works...!”

When we praise Him for how good He is, and we tell everyone about the wonderful things He has done, we learn to know Him. When we know Him, we aren’t afraid of storms because we know that He always saves us.

Do the students have fears or storms that they are facing? Do they know that Jesus’s love casts out all fear?

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been made perfect in love (1 John 4:18).

Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

9. So You May Know

Compare Matthew, Mark & Luke

1. Which writer tells how many people carried the man?
2. Which writers tell how the men got in the house?
3. What do all three writers say that Jesus was able to see?

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

10. A Withered Hand

Matthew 12:11-12

1. If your sheep fell into a well on the Sabbath, what would you do?
2. What does Jesus say about people compared to sheep?
3. What does Jesus say the law allows us to do on the Sabbath?

Mark 2: 27-28

...the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath.

11. Finding Great Faith

1. Why did the Jews tell Jesus he should go to the centurion?
2. What did the centurion say about Jesus coming to his house?
3. What did the centurion say he understood because of the soldiers that served under him?

Psalms 10:17

Lord, you have heard the desire of the humble; you will prepare their heart; you will cause your ear to hear.

12. Who Is This?

Read Psalm 107

1. What does it say would happen in verse 25?
2. What does it say the people will do in verse 28?
3. What will the Lord do in verse 28?
4. How should the people respond (verses 8, 15, 21, 31)?

Psalm 107:31-32

Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the assembly of the people, and praise him in the company of the elders.



