

## A Study of the Book of Matthew: Chapter 8 v. 23-27

- **Review of what has happened so far in Matthew**
  - Jesus has finished delivering the Sermon on the Mount
  - He follows this with miracles of healing so a crowd gathers around him
  - He states His intention to cross the sea, some disciples say they will follow Him and He explains what they truly would mean.
  
- **These verses are one of the best known stories in the Gospels is that of Jesus' calming the storm on the lake.**
  - Also found in **Mark 4:37-41**; and **Luke 8:23-25**.
  
- **“Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.” (v. 23)**
  - Even after everything he told them about what it would cost they **“followed Him.”**
  - Why did they follow him?
  
- **“And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. ” (v. 24)**
  - **“suddenly a great tempest arose”**
    - At least four of these disciples were fishermen.
      - They were from the area and understood life near the water
      - They understood the Sea of Galilee
      - Do you think they would have gotten into the boat/s if they saw a storm brewing?
  - Why was He asleep?
  
- **“Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, ‘Lord, save us! We are perishing!’” (v. 25)**
  - **Interesting comparison**
    - **Mark 4:38** - **“Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”**
    - **Luke 8:24** - **“Master, Master, we are perishing!” (Similar to Matt 8:25)**
  - Remember at least four disciples are fishermen. They know what to do during storms, but they do not know what to do in this “great” one.
  - **“We are perishing.”**
    - They are facing death, and know Jesus can save them.
  
- **“But He said to them, ‘Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?’ Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.” (v. 26)**
  - Here the disciples are accused of having little faith.

- Jesus's rebuke of the disciples serves as a wakeup call to them considering what He told them recently in the Sermon on the Mount.
    - **Matthew 6:25-27**
    - What point could Jesus have been trying to make to his disciples?
  - After this brief rebuke, Jesus then got up and spoke to the winds and the sea.
  - Jesus spoke directly to the natural order of the elements and the weather.
    - When He did, the wind, the waves, the sea, everything became perfectly calm. The natural cosmos obeyed the voice of its Creator who spoke it into existence.
    - **Genesis 1**
    - **John 1:3**
    - **Colossians 1:16**
  - **“He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.”**
    - The disciples had seen glimpses of Jesus' power and heard him speak with authority but this passage takes Jesus' power/authority to a whole new level.
    - In **verse 16** He cast out the spirits with the word. Now we see He has control over the natural world with words. If Jesus could create it with a word, then He can control it with a word.
    - That is what Peter is saying in **2 Peter 3:5-6**.
  - What is the lesson here?
- **“So the men marveled, saying, ‘Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’” (v. 27)**
    - **What kind of man is this?**
      - The men in the boat, who had previously witnessed Jesus heal lepers and all manners of diseases, and who saw Him cast out demons were amazed. They said among themselves What kind of man is this that even the wind and the sea obey Him?
      - These are experienced seamen. In all of their lives they may have witnessed such a storm but never seem one end with just a word!
      - What kind of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey Him?
      - The great calm which followed was equal to the great storm's fury.
    - As Matthew is proving with his gospel, this man was God, the One who created the wind and the waves and all things.
      - He was the Messiah, the King of Heaven and Earth.
      - As the Gospels continue, you see that the men in the boat didn't fully catch on to who Jesus was until after He rose from the dead.