

Who is Jesus? The Miracles of Jesus: Identifying Signs

Luke 8:22-25

“Jesus calmed the storm for the disciples, and He can calm the storms in your life too.” Yes, but there’s more...

22 One day he [Jesus] got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.”

- A boat seemed to be a kind of “floating pulpit” for Jesus.
 - He used a boat for crowd control
 - Mark 3:9-10 – “He told his disciples to **have a boat ready** for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him.”
 - Mark 4:1 – “Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that **he got into a boat** and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.”
- Jesus told His disciples that they would take this boat to the “other side of the lake.” Thus, Jesus declared His purpose, mission, and promise – “We are going to the other side.”

22b So they set out, 23a and as they sailed he [Jesus] fell asleep.

- Normal activity – reminiscent of the scene leading up to the transfiguration
 - Jesus went to pray and brought Peter, James, and John along (Matt 17:1)... Perfectly normal routine.

23b And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.

- “A windstorm came...” This was common on the sea of Galilee
 - The windstorm was not a result of some poor or bad choice on the disciple’s part... They were following the leader (v22 “Let us go across to the other side of the lake.”)
- “they were filling with water and were in danger...” This was a bad one
 - The disciples were actually in real danger

24a And they went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!”

- First, though some of the disciples were fishermen, they were overcome by the storm
 - They cry out “Master” (teacher, captain, lord, commander) because they are seeking the ability of another.
 - Lk 17 – 10 lepers cry out “Master, have mercy on us!”
 - Lk 9 – John calls Jesus “Master” in submission to His commissioning authority, which gave them power to cast out demons.
 - Lk 9 – Peter’s rambling response to the transfigured Jesus begins with “Master...”
- Second, the disciples are desperate and unsure about Jesus’ concern
 - They exclaim, “We are perishing!” “We are dead men!” (Mk 4:38 – “*Teacher (one of supreme understanding) do you not care that we are perishing (certain imminent death)?!*”)
 - They have ignored Jesus’ words, and they have discounted who He is
 - It was Jesus who said, “Let us go across to the other side of the lake” (v22)... He did not say, “Let us go to the middle of the lake and die.”
 - The disciples were focused entirely on the storm, and this obscured their vision of Jesus’ magnificence and supremacy.

24b And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

- Seemingly in passing, Luke says that Jesus verbally commands creation and it obeys absolutely.
 - This is only explained if we understand Jesus Christ to be exhibiting the divine fiat of God.
- The wind and ‘raging’ waves have no ears, nor do these have volition or will.
 - It is not as though the wind and waves were listening to one voice, and Jesus provided an alternative. Jesus spoke for the benefit of the disciples – not for the benefit of the wind and waves.
 - He was clearly showing that He was greater than the storm

25a He said to them, “Where is your faith?”

- “Where is the faith of you?” faith: confidence, belief, trust, fidelity
- Circumstance revealed the lack of trust that was already a reality
 - The storm did not move their faith or trust from Christ, it simply revealed that their faith or trust was already misapplied elsewhere.

25a And they were afraid,

- *phobēthentes* – being afraid or terrified, experiencing dread
 - They were afraid for their lives because of the wind and waves, but now they are terrified of the One who has infinite power over those things that had been the source of so much fear only moments before.

25b and they marveled, saying to one another, “Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”

- First, they “marveled.” They were astounded, in awe, stupefied
- Second, they understood the implications of what Jesus had just done... “Who then is this?...”
 - Identity – He is God over creation – the Sovereign Lord (Phil 2:9-11)
 - Authority – He is the One in whom, for whom, and by whom all things hold together (Col 1:15-17)
 - Majesty – He is the One who’s eyes are flames of fire, who’s feet are fixed and sure, who’s voice is like the sound of roaring waters. This is the One who holds all His people in the nestled palm of His strong hand, He speaks with words that cut to the core, and His blessed countenance is brilliant light (Rev 1:12-18)

This demonstration of power and authority is meant to POINT to a greater truth, namely that JESUS is the Son of God and God the Son. JESUS is the focus; “Who then is this?!” This is the One who has said, “Let us go across to the other side.” He is the One with power over all creation that goes along with His people through all their pain, trials, and suffering. He demonstrates His power, not so that we will merely hold out hope that He will deliver us from momentary fear, oppression, strife, or dismay. He demonstrates His power so that we will look to Him and behold the King of Glory – so that we will find our rest in Him regardless of our circumstance!

John 20:30-31 – “These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”