

STORM ON THE SEA (NBC Sept. 2010)

Luke 8:22-25

Today we will consider **three** aspects of this storm mentioned in our text; **(1) The progression of the storm. (2) The Lord of the storm. (3) Active faith in the storm.** My hope is, if you are in a storm that this word today will be a source of *encouragement* and *strength* for you.

The Progression of a Storm: (v.22, 23) Storms, by nature, can come up suddenly; (*canyon in Israel, wind blows down upon this great lake, also called the Sea of Galilee*). This particular storm was **not** in the disciple's plans; neither was it the result of **disobedience** but rather, "**obedience.**" ***These are the storms we struggle with the most. (COUPLE SAVED – CAR BROKEN INTO)***. It was the Lord who "told" them to go over to the other side of the **lake**; the **wind** started; the **waves** started to getting rough; **water** started "splashing," now the boat starts "**filling up,**" **and Jesus slept.**

In "**frustration**" the *disciples* throw their *faith* "**overboard,**" and declare in an "accusatory" tone; **(v.24a)**; Mark records they said: "**Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?**" **The Lord does care; but what He cares about most is that we learn to live by faith.** I believe Jesus *remained asleep* as an example to His disciples of what "**rest,**" in the Father looks like.

(Isaiah 26:3) You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

The Lord of the Storm: The desperation in the disciple's "voice" is reminiscent of many of my prayers. "**We've got to wake the Lord up!**"

(Matthew 6:31-33) "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall

we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Faith is casting our *cares* on God, so we can "focus" on the One who *cares* for us!

Jesus "rebuked" the *wind* and the *raging water*. The Greek word for **rebuked**; *epitimaō – censure, forbid*. It comes from two other Greek words: **Epi** – *superimposition (time, place, order, etc.)*; **Timao** – *to fix a valuation, (appraisal) upon something*. With this "rebuke" Jesus demonstrated; *His sovereignty over the storm. Spiritually speaking; despite the time, place, or order of a storm; He can alter its natural destructive course by "superimposing" His divine will; and by affixing His "appraisal" of the situation*; Mark records Jesus said to the storm; **"Peace be still!"**

Active Faith in the Storm: The question in every storm we face is not *who, what, why, or when*, but **"where!"** Jesus asked the disciples **"Where is your faith?"** Matthew's gospel records; **"O you of little faith..."** **Note:** *these disciples had seen the lame walk, the blind see, and even a dead man brought back to life; it's amazing how quickly a storm can erase God's past faithfulness*. The apostle Paul demonstrates for us what active faith looks like in a storm; **(Acts 27:23)** **"For there stood by me this night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve..."** Faith "activated" in a storm, is knowing you are held fast by the one you "belong to," and holding fast to the one you "serve!"

CONCLUSION: (1) Remember Jesus is in the boat. **"I will never leave you nor forsake you."** **(Hebrews 13:5).** The answer to the disciple's question, **(v.25b)** is

obvious; only **God** is sovereign over nature and the storms we face. **(2) A storm is God's classroom for building overcoming faith. (Psalm 119:71) It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes. (3) Storms will pass, but God's word will last. (Luke 21:33) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.** This year you will find yourself in a "storm." When you do the most important question you need to ask yourself; **Where is my faith today? (Proverbs 18:10) The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.**