

Matthew #4 - The Storm at Sea

I. Let us First Look at Verses 23 - 25

- A. They got into boat- probably a small open boat with sails
 - 1. Sea is called "sea of Tiberias", "Sea of Galilee" "Lake of Gennesaret"
 - a. 8 miles by 13 miles- 680 feet below sea level - so subject to storms
- B. They could have gone by land- but Lord's direction was to go by boat
- C. V. 24- Jesus asleep - Mark tells us on cushion at back of boat
 - 1. This shows us the humanity of our Lord - Son of Man
- D. Great "Storm" - Greek "Seismos" a shaking (Seismograph)
- E. V. 25- Should be the cry of all sinners - Some say contradicts Mark
 - 1. But probably different disciples said different things (Mk. 4:38)
- F. Jesus may have rebuked the disciples before and after miracle-Mk. 4:39

II. Then Let Us Look at Verses 26 and 27

- A. V. 26- Why does Jesus say the disciples are of "little faith"?
 - 1. Normal for people to be fearful in a life-threatening situation
 - 2. Compare Mark 4:35 - Christ had said they would pass to other side
 - a. Their fear showed lack of faith in truth of their Lord's words
 - b. Also doubting mission of Lord to save- He couldn't die here
- B. But the Lord says that they have "little faith" not "no faith"
 - 1. They had to have faith in order to follow Christ (2 Thess. 3:2)
 - 2. They have enough faith to go to Jesus in time of trial- Jonah 1:5
- C. The Lord said they are "fearful" or "cowardly"- Rev. 21:8; 2 Tim.1:7
 - 1. Important for us not to let fear dominate our lives
- D. Mark records words of Christ to storm- "Be muzzled" - Mark 4:39
 - 1. Storms and waves recede because they recognize Master's voice
 - a. Back to last week (Job 38:8-11) also Psalm 89:8, 9
 - 2. Remarkably not only does storm immediately cease- but also waves
- E. V.27- Greek doesn't have the words "of man" in it - What kind of being?
 - 1. See Him as both God and man - Only place we have Jesus sleeping
 - a. Acts 12:6- Peter would learn; Psalm 4:8

III. Let us Look at this story as an Illustration of our Salvation

- A. First it is the Lord who directs man's salvation - verses 18, 23
- B. All sinners are in a storm - Romans 6:23; James 1:15
 - 1. God will often use literal and personal storms to bring people to Him
- C. Salvation only comes to those who realize that they are in a storm
 - 1. This will cause them to cry out in desperation - law does its work
 - 2. Danger at sea is common allegory to danger we face from evil
- a. 2 Cor. 11:25, 26; Ps. 69:2; Ps. 124:1 - 5
- D. Only way we are saved is by calling on name of Lord- Ac. 2:21
 - 1. Though He saves them- they call on Him as Lord - Rom. 10:9
- E. Even "little faith" can save the sinner - Mark 9:24; Psalm 51:17
- F. Result of calling upon Lord is "Peace" - Rom. 5:1; Rom. 14:17

Conclusion: Let us learn the following lessons from our text:

Lesson 1: Following Jesus doesn't keep us out of storms - Is. 54:11

Lesson 2: In the midst of the world's tribulation Jesus gives peace-Jn 16:33

Lesson 3: Jesus will be with us in all crossings (salvation, death)-Ps. 23:4