

When Trials Come (Luke 8:22-25)

1. Trials Will Come Your Way (v.22-23)

- Jesus decided to cross the lake with His disciples (v.22). This “lake” is also called the Sea of Galilee (Sea of Tiberius) and is eight miles wide by twelve miles long.
- The Gospel According to Mark informs the reader of several details that Luke chose to omit:
 - This crossing occurred during the evening (4:35).
 - Jesus left the crowds, presumably those who had followed Him from Nain to Capernaum (4:35).
 - Other “boats” accompanied the boat Jesus entered while crossing. The total amount of boats was at least three. Who were in the other boats? Perhaps the other disciples (in addition to the twelve) and some, if not all, the women previously mentioned (8:1-3) may have also crossed the lake with Him.
 - Jesus may have been in Simon’s fishing boat. The other “boats” (plural) accompanying may have been those belonging to the Sons of Zebedee (James and John; see Lk. 5:1-11), along with at least one additional boat.
- At some point along the journey, Jesus fell asleep (v.23). Mark includes additional information: Jesus was sleeping in the *stern*, on a *cushion* (Mk. 4:38).
- The Gospel According to Matthew informs readers of a “great storm” (mega seismos). Mark calls it a “great gale of wind” (mega whirlwind), and Luke refers to it as a “gale of wind that descended” (Lk. 8:23).
 - The writers are communicating the gravity of this storm to the picture of a “great earthquake” and “hurricane” that occurred on the lake.
- Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves (v.24). Not only did the waves and the wind cease, but the lake was calm.

Why did Jesus rebuke the storm?

- The principalities of this world, (Eph. 6:2) led by Satan with his limited knowledge, caused this storm to prevent Jesus of Nazareth from fulfilling His mission.
- Satan asserted and inserted himself to control the weather to sink all the ships in the Sea of Galilee that were accompanying Jesus.
 - Previously, Jesus has healed every infirmity, cured every disease, and even summoned a young man from the dead (Lk. 4:31-35, 38; 5:12-13, 17-26; 6:8-10; 7:10-11, 11-14).
 - Why did Jesus *rebuke* the fever that fell upon Simon’s mother-in-law (Lk. 4:38) and this windstorm? Why not “rebuke” every disease, illness, or death?
 - Why did Jesus *rebuke* Peter after speaking of His future death (Mk. 13:22)?

As the prince and power of the air (Eph. 2:2) and God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4), Satan and his host have a delegated, limited, and permitted authority over not only the spiritual but also the physical elements of the world:

- Satan (presumably) rained fire from heaven and ushered a windstorm that killed all ten of Job’s children (Job 1).
- When Moses and Aaron approached and reproached Pharaoh to emancipate the nation of Israel, they demonstrated proof that YHWH sent them by throwing the staff to the ground, miraculously turning it into a snake. In response, Pharaoh summoned his magicians, and they did the same. However, Moses’ snake swallowed the magicians’ snake (Ex. 7:1-12).
- Mark informs us that “false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the elect” (Mk. 13:22) during the Last Days.

God establishes boundaries over the works of Satan and His kingdom. God is sovereign *de jure* (rightful claim and reign) over all things and exercises that sovereignty through primary and secondary causes.

Points of Application:

- Do not attribute sickness, weather, death, and trials to Satan, though he may have some bearing. We do not possess the detailed insight or spiritual authority that Jesus does.
- Ultimately, Satan and his host are the servants of God. Whether God is the primary or secondary agent, He is sovereign and permits, administers, decrees, allows, or causes everything to happen.
- Jesus rebuked the storm because it was acting “unbecomingly.” The wind and the waves were not rebuked because they were evil but because He saw the powers of Satan active in the elements.

God is the sovereign One over nature and the weather. YHWH controls the natural elements (Ps. 65:7; 89:9; 104:3, 7; 107:23-30; Isa. 51:10; Jonah 1-2).

2. Trust Jesus At All Times (v.24-25)

- Jesus was awakened, not from the storm, but because of His frantic and flustered disciples (v.24). This must have been an unprecedented storm, as Peter, James, John, and Andrew were all fishermen by trade. For them to be this concerned sheds light on how violent this storm was.
- These veteran fishermen did everything in their power to fix their predicament as the boat was in danger of sinking; it was to no avail.
- Jesus was sleeping in the stern on a cushion (Mk. 4:38). Luke includes Jesus sleeping to demonstrate two essential truths: His humanity and trust in the Father.
 - In a frenzy and frantic manner, Jesus’ disciples woke Him (v.24).
 - Mark informs the reader that the disciples accused Jesus of “not caring” and being indifferent to their apparent predicament (Mk. 4:38).

Two questions are asked (v.25):

A. *Jesus asked the disciples, “Where is your faith?”*

- The disciples have witnessed the blind recover sight, the lepers healed, the dead raised, and the sick healed (Isa. 61:1-2) through the miracles of Jesus.
- Jesus graciously exhorts the disciples, not because of their absence of faith but because they failed to appropriate previous revelation into present faith. In many ways, they were behaving like the second soil. Though they fell, they did not fall (8:13).

B. *The disciples were afraid and asked, “Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him?”*

- The disciples are filled with fear and amazement, the proper response to God’s wondrous power and authority (fear: 2:9; 5:26; 7:16 and wonder: 1:65; 2:18, 33, 43, 47; 4:36).
- Despite previous revelations about the conduct and character of Jesus, they have yet to grasp the full spectrum of Who Jesus is. They are more afraid of Him than the storm. Jesus is in a class all by Himself.

Points of Application: