

FAITH THAT DRIVES OUT FEAR!
MATTHEW CH8:23-27 (Mark Ch4:35-41 + Luke Ch8:22-25)

ILLUSTRATION

Where does fear come from? What is its purpose? Is there a “good” fear and a “bad” fear? What causes us to fear? Are we fearing anything/anyone/any situation right now?

THE FEARFUL STORM OUTSIDE! V23-25

So the disciples, unlike the two disciples (of what I'm not sure) in the above verses, seem to get the cost of following Jesus and jump in the boat, leaving Capernaum and head off across the lake, which is around 13 miles long and 8 miles wide in places!

Then without warning, a furious storm came up, with winds and waves rising up and water crashing into the boat. The outside storm doesn't wake JESUS! He is asleep after working all day. Nobody has offered Him a room, Hotel or B+B, to rest for the night, instead He sleeps rough on a boat, living out what He talked about in v20!

THE FEARFUL STORM INSIDE! V26

Along with the “storm outside”, there is a more “furious storm” raging inside! But inside where? It's in the hearts of the disciples! They are committed to following Jesus, have something of an understanding of the cost of following Jesus, but their faith in Him as a person, His presence, His power and His promises are about to be tested!

So often it's the case for disciples. We make a decision to follow Jesus, to put our trust in Jesus our faith in Jesus, and Jesus will test that decision!

Who wakes Jesus? Is it the outside storm? No! It's the disciples (v25) and the storm that's raging within their hearts. They believe they are going to die (v25)!

What is weird about v26? Surely you'd expect Jesus to calm the storm first and then deal with the disciples! But no! Jesus deals with the real problem first, overwhelming fear in the hearts of the disciples, that has driven out their faith regarding who the person and presence of Christ really is!

Look at the way that Jesus rebukes the wind and the waves, literally “hush”, be still, Jesus asserts His authority over nature so that there is a deep calm!!!
Think deep calm!!!!!!

THE FAITH STRENGTHENING SON! V27

This deep calm over nature has such an affect on the disciples and their faith in the person and presence of Jesus, it is strengthened, so much so, that they are amazed and question “What kind of man is this?” You see, in all that God has allowed humankind to fix, solve, create, invent, etc, none of us can control or change the weather! And in the same glorious way, only Christ can change and strengthen our faith, that drives out fear!!!!!!!!!!

We all, those that is who are disciples of Jesus, need our faith strengthened!!!! This happens as we learn to trust in the person of Jesus, who will amaze us, in our times of fear!!!!

Next time, learn to lie down in that “without warning storm” and trust, in faith, in the Saviour and Lord of all!!!!

APPLICATION

Is that a question for us today – What kind of man is this?

Will you allow the person, presence, power, promises of Jesus to create a deep calm and drive away your fear!

Matthew records for us something of both the majesty and humanness of Jesus, throughout Ch8. He heals the unclean and swaps places with him, as Jesus is left in the lonely places (Mark Ch1:40-45). He heals other people displaying His authority and majesty, but JESUS also knows what it's like to be homeless (Matt Ch8:18-22), shattered (Matt Ch8:25), and rejected (Matt Ch8:34).

The Son of Man is the humble servant who has come to forgive the sins of common sinners in His earthly ministry (8:20, 9:6, 11:19, 12:8, 32, 40).

The Son of Man is the suffering servant who offered His body as an atoning sacrifice on the cross and through this penalty being paid in full satisfies God's wrath and leads to the redemption of His people (16:13, 27-28, 17:9, 12, 22, 20:18, 28, 26:2, 24, 45).

The Son of Man is the glorious King and Judge who will return to earth (10:23, 13:37, 41, 19:28, 24:27, 30, 37, 39, 44, 25:31, 26:64).

What do you make of these verses?

Does your faith need strengthening?