

FOLLOWING, FEAR, AND FAITH

MATTHEW 8:23-27

If the Lord be with us, we have no cause of fear. His eye is upon us,
His arm over us, His ear open to our prayer - His grace sufficient,
His promise unchangeable.

-John Newton

I. A Great Storm

II. A Great Calm

Small Group Application Questions

Getting to Know You

1. What is the worst experience you've had on a boat or ship?

Into the Bible

2. Given the definition of faith we are given in Hebrews 11:1, does it seem fair to reprove his disciples for their fear during the storm as showing a "lack of faith"? Why should they have had more faith in the midst of everything? (John 20:30-31) What is our faith based on? (I John 5:13, II Peter 1:16-21)

3. To put this in its proper context, these boats were manned by experienced fisherman who knew the Sea of Galilee. They were justifiably terrified by the threat posed by this storm. Yet they seem equally terrified when Jesus stops the storm (Luke 8:25). They then question his actual identity. Read Job 38:11, Psalm 89:8-9 and Psalm 65:5-7. What is Jesus telling them by doing this miracle?

Application

4. Four times in the Gospels Christ refers to his disciples as being of “little faith”. Read Matthew 6:30, Luke 12:28, and Matthew 16:8. What are the two things the disciples seem to be doubting God’s ability or willingness to do in these situations? How should we respond when we face similar challenges to our faith? (Psalm 34:7-9)

For Families

5. Talk with your children about God’s ability and willingness to bring peace when they are afraid.