

Passage 1

Luke 8:22 Now on one of [those] days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out.

Luke 8:23 But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they [began] to be swamped and to be in danger.

Luke 8:24 They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm.

Luke 8:25 And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?" (NASB)

1. Facts

List what you see in the passage

Jesus and His disciples got into a boat and Jesus said,
"Let's go across the lake."

2. Lessons

Write down what you learn from this passage

When we follow Jesus He has a plan where He will take us. Jesus didn't wander aimlessly around in this passage. He knew where He wanted to go.

3. Challenges

Turn the lessons into questions that challenge you

Do I have confidence that if I follow Jesus He has a plan where He will lead me?

4. Response

Listen to what God is saying to you and write out your response

Commentary 1

1. *Luke 8:22-25*

Have you ever noticed that when you follow Jesus you don't get a detailed itinerary? The destination can be somewhat hazy: "Let's go across the lake." "Where exactly are we going?" "Why are we going across the lake?" "Who are we meeting across the lake?" "When will we be coming back?" "Do we need to take provisions for the night?" None of that is recorded, just, "Let's go across the lake."

When you have a strong leader who inspires confidence, you are willing to get in the boat without knowing all the details. Jesus is a strong leader. He doesn't wander aimlessly around. He knew where He wanted to go. He had a mission. He was not worried. He was relaxed enough to fall asleep allowing the others to take the helm. He didn't micromanage their every move. He wasn't barking out orders about speed and tacking. He let them be in charge of the trip. He was not wringing His Hands after He gave them the responsibility.

Jesus knew that problems bigger than we can manage will come up as we follow Him. The reason He was not worried and could sleep is because He is able to handle whatever comes up. That's why Christ's first question to His disciples was, "Where is your faith?" If they had taken Jesus at His Word, "Let's go to the other side of the lake," they would know He would get them there.

There will be danger for some as we follow Christ. Do we wait until we are desperate to seek Christ's help, or does our faith in Christ keep us from desperation?

Jesus is the kind of leader who puts His followers first. He was tired, but He got up and helped. He did not scold the disciples for interrupting His sleep. Instead, He responded

to their fears immediately. He calmed the storm. He did not play with their emotions. Then He taught them what would have helped in their crisis—faith.

Jesus has ultimate control over His creation. His creation obeys His commands. Jesus “rebuked” the storm the way He “rebuked” demons. It is possible that Satan was trying to prevent Jesus from reaching the two demonized men on the other side of the lake. But Jesus just had to speak and the storm became calm. Satan is no match for Jesus. When there are earthquakes, fires, floods and tornados where is our faith? When we are frightened, Jesus responds immediately and says the solution is faith in Him.

Do I have confidence that if I follow Jesus He has a plan and will lead me? Am I willing to step out and get in the boat? God won’t steer us if we stay put. But if we are willing to get in the boat, even if we get in the “wrong” boat, God can steer us in His preferred direction. God gives us a lot of freedom to choose to follow Him. He does not micromanage us and force us to follow Him. The more time we spend with Jesus in the boat, the more we will become like Him. If we are a worried leader now, He will help increase our faith so we will feel secure enough to let others take the helm. Because ultimately we know He is the one in charge.

Am I willing to follow Christ even when there is danger? Will my faith keep me focused on Him? Do I see how Christ will put me first? Do I see that He won’t chastise me for my fear, but will help me both with the danger and with my faith. Do I see how Christ cares about my fears and won’t play with my emotions? He did not tell the disciples their fear was silly. He asked them where their faith was. The danger was real. But, His power over the danger was also real.

Getting to know Jesus also helps us not fear His power. The disciples were amazed and afraid of Jesus' power over His creation. If they had understood His mission to die for them, they would not have feared His power, but felt secure in it.

What kind of person is Jesus?

- Jesus is a strong leader. He is confident and doesn't wring His Hands trying to micro-manage us.
- Jesus is the kind of person who when He says something, He is powerful enough to make it happen. Jesus said, "Let's go to the other side of the lake." If the disciples took Him at His Word they would not need to fear, they would know they were going to get to the other side.
- Jesus responds to our fears and then teaches us how to cope better next time.
- Jesus does not play with our emotions. He dealt with the storm immediately. He didn't chastise them first.
- Jesus has absolute power over His creation. He only needed to speak and the storm was calmed. Normally it takes hours for the waves to settle after a storm. Satan is no match for Jesus.
- Jesus let the disciples take the helm.
- Jesus uses His power to protect us.

2. *Mark 12:41-44*

"Have you noticed that Jesus never seems in a hurry? He never gets flustered rushing around. In fact, He was criticized for not hurrying a time or two. Here is another example of Jesus taking His time. This time, Jesus shows us He cares about our giving.

Jesus sat down opposite the offering box and just watched the crowd put money in the box. He saw many rich people



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