

The Storms of Life

A RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTED TO

Professor R. Steven Notley

NYACK COLLEGE

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by

Sarah Wilson
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INTRODUCTION

The book of Luke is one of the most interesting books of the Bible because the readers can see Jesus' true character, straight to the core. The audience not just in the book, but reading can see His response to panic and doubt that He faces with His disciples, that actually mirrors real time problems today. "Storms aren't fun, either at sea or in real life. Yet we learn lessons through storms that we never would learn if life were always calm" (Cole, Steven J.) Let's dive deeper into the history, culture, and physical setting of Luke chapter 8 verses 22 to 25 where Jesus calms the physical storm and emotional storms inside His people. In this passage Jesus proves that He has power of nature, which in turn increases the disciple's faith in Him and allows them to walk away in amazement.

Setting

Before the readers can really understand the magnitude of the storm or situation the disciples and Jesus faced, we have to look into the setting of where they were. The "lake" that verse 22 is referring to is the Sea of Galilee which is located between several mountains. (Deffinbaugh, Bob) This often results in crazy winds and storms that seemingly come out of nowhere. But the disciples were not normal people with no involvement with the water, these were men that had years of experience in fishing and just being comfortable in a boat. To put things into perspective, for this storm to scare every single pro-fisherman to the point where they

thought they were going to die, it must have been an extremely large storm that they have never seen before. Imagine waves they could not see over, crashing down on them, winds that seemed to not let up, and being terrified because it was only getting worse.

History

If the storm was so very large, how could Jesus sleep through it and not be awakened until He was called? Taking a look back in earlier verses we see that Jesus had been on the road teaching and spreading the good news to one town and village to another. He not only was preaching but also healing along the way, he must have been over exhausted from teaching to all of the crowds before stepping onto the boat. Looking at it from Jesus' family's viewpoint, the crowds were so large that they could not even get through to see Him. (Clark, Adam)

Doubting Disciples

Jesus had power over the waves, in verse 23 when Jesus fell asleep "the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger" (NIV) the disciples first instinct was to panic. Opening the door for doubt to creep in, in verse 24 the disciples seemingly forgot who Jesus was when they went to Him and claimed "Master, we're going to drown!" (NIV) They were on a boat with the creator of the universe and STILL it seems as though no matter how many times they were proven of something the Devil still creeps in thoughts of doubt even after this "obedience that seems to follow a master-slave dynamic" (Elvey, Anne) After they woke Him, He "rebuked the wind and the raging waters" (NIV) and all was calm again while He asked in verse 25 "Where is

your faith?” (NIV) (Coffman’s, James) Jesus probably very disappointed watched as His disciples were shocked at yet another miracle. Even Jesus’ chosen people who have seen Him perform countless miracles were amazed again by His power, not just over people but by nature itself! (Gill, John)

Conclusion

Through this entire chapter of Luke, the audience is proven time and time again, Jesus’ character, He is who He says He is. Jesus Christ has power over sickness, death, nature and over the spirit world (demons). In Luke chapter 8 verse 22 to 25 Jesus proves that He has power over the waves, which in turn increases the disciple’s faith in Him and allows them to walk away in amazement. Even though the disciples faced a terrible physical storm, they now know they can trust in Jesus through any battle, He might seem silent at first, but He is always present for His followers.

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