

Master of Our Fates

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I. **Luke 8:22** Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.

- ❖ (on a certain day) - Our life experiences are not random
- ❖ (He went into a ship with his disciples) - If we are the Lord's, He goes with us as we travel through life
 - Note that this could have said, "His disciples went into a ship with Him." Why didn't it say that (In fact, that is the way Matthew states it in Mat. 8)? Because the Holy Spirit wants us to understand that the Lord accompanies us ("...went into...with")...it is not a matter of us accompanying Him
 - "...lo, I am **with thee** always...."
- ❖ (Let us go over unto the other side of the lake) - Our life-travels have specific destinations as far as the Lord is concerned
 - Abraham was directed by the Lord to go to a place that He would show him (Gen. 12:1). But while Abraham didn't know where he was going, God did.

II. **Luke 8:23** But as they sailed he fell asleep - not to stretch a metaphor too far, let me say that sometimes, when our lives are moving along (they sailed) the Lord seems to be asleep as far as we are concerned.

- ❖ More than that, when we measure God by the yardstick of human attributes, we will sometimes treat Him like He is asleep when things are going smoothly.
- ❖ (and there came down a storm of wind on the lake) - we can expect disturbances in our life-travels
 - Diane and I used to make a lot of trips down to West KY when we were stationed in Louisville, because the kids were down there. We began to notice that at least 90% of the time when we came down, we would have to drive in the rain either going or coming. We got to the point where we would feel amazed if we made one of those trips and it didn't rain! We finally came to expect the rain when we went, and just about ignored it!
- ❖ (and they were filled *with water*, and were in jeopardy) - There are times, even though we have the Lord accompanying us in our life-journeys, that we will actually get into a place of danger.
 - If you've never been out on the ocean in a storm, you might not be able to sympathize with those disciples on this trip of theirs...but storms out in open water can be fearful!
 - Have you ever thought about how David could say, "Yea, though I walk through the valley and the shadow of death, I will fear no evil?"

- ❖ Those times can take place even when we are engaged in an experience that the Lord himself has led us to do (remember, it was Jesus who mentioned going over to the other side)
 - The great threats the missionaries of the first century faced were met with when they were going somewhere in the work of the Lord
- ❖ In fact, the Lord may at times take us to places where there is “jeopardy” in order to give us some insights into our own need and where we will turn for solutions.

III. **Luke 8:24** (And they came to him) - The believer knows how to find his Lord when the chips are down

- ❖ (and they came to him) - The believer will run to his Lord when the chips are down
 - During a storm, doves will fly with vigor into cedar thickets.
- ❖ (Master, master, we perish) When we find ourselves needing the Lord, it is no time to be vague about what we want
- ❖ (Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.) - The Lord knows how to give solutions to life’s upsets and perils
 - Do you see anything peculiar about our Lord’s treatment of the wind and water? (Hint: as a rule, God allows the wind and the waters to fully express their natural process, so why should it be different right here?)

IV. **Luke 8:25** (And he said unto them, Where is your faith?) - Have you ever thought about the insights of Christ here? Every one of us would be struck with fear to be out in the middle of a storm in a sinking boat, so what is there about these disciples that needed this kind of scolding? I think that this is the difference: there could be no doubt whatsoever on the part of any disciple aboard that the Christ of God was with them in that boat..they could verify it by sight.

- ❖ Now, let’s see the lesson for us here: We walk by faith, not by sight. That faith is supposed to cause us to be sure that our Lord is right there with us in the boat of life. If that is true, then nothing that can happen can be bad for us. But, just like the disciples, when we look at the wind and the waves of life, all too often, we forget that truth. Forgetting it, we get filled with fear when a life-storm comes, and we will also be thinking we are going to die.
- ❖ Back just a moment to v. 24 - (he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.) - how many times has the Lord stopped a life-storm for us and caused us to look out over a calm sea and realize that the end of the turmoil was only as far away as us engaging Him to say “Peace, be still?”
- ❖ (And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.) - The miracles of God are sometimes lost on us - that is, we are too inclined to imagine that something is too big even for God, and when that something is resolved we wonder how it

happened.

- In 1588, Spain planned an attack on England using more than 50,000 troops coming overland and using what we all know from history as the Spanish Armada at sea. Now, this armada of ships was made up of 130 ships and they outgunned the English warship fleet. But, as the invasion unfolded, the Spanish fleet and the ground army were defeated. Do you know what defeated them? It was disease that crippled the army and gales that wrecked almost half of the Spanish Armada. God commands the winds and the microbes and they obey Him!
- In East Bernstadt, KY, March 2012, two young kids and their dad, Jason Jackson, were sucked through a hole in the wall of their house that a tornado had torn as it ripped their house apart...they were carried more than 300 feet from the house by the tornado and lived with only minor cuts and bruises. That dad appealed to God to spare his children just before they were all snatched up by that violent tornado... “What manner of God is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him” (remember, it is the norm for tornados to destroy and kill).