

# Luke #16: The Storm Before the Calm

“Where is Your Faith?” - Luke 8:22-25

## Introduction

**Luke 8:22-25 (ESV)** <sup>22</sup>One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “**Let us go across** to the other side of the lake.” So they set out, <sup>23</sup>and as they sailed **he fell asleep**. And **a windstorm came** down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.

<sup>24</sup>And they went and **woke him**, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and **there was a calm**. <sup>25</sup>He said to them, “**Where is your faith?**” And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, “**Who then is this**, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?”

**As we focus on our need for a strong FAITH, which is the primary lesson of this story, we will observe seven spiritual applications contained within the specific words of the story.**

## I. “Let Us Go Across”

**Luke 8:22 (ESV)** <sup>22</sup>One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, “**Let us go across** to the other side of the lake.” So they set out,

- A. The disciples were led into this storm by following Jesus.
- B. Some believe that storms come for the Christian only when he or she rebels or disobeys God, but that’s not true.

**Acts 8:3-4 (ESV)** <sup>3</sup>But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. <sup>4</sup>Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

## II. “A Windstorm Came”

**Luke 8:23 (ESV)** <sup>23</sup>and as they sailed he fell asleep. And **a windstorm came down on the lake**, and they were filling with water and were in danger.

- A. This is how the storms of life come upon us – suddenly and violently and without warning!
  1. One minute the sun is shining, and the next the lightning is flashing, the thunder is booming, and the winds and waves are crashing all around us.
  2. The phone rings and in seconds your life is changed, you’re in the midst of a storm.
  3. You have a routine doctor visit that was to be quick and simple.
  4. Your boss calls you into the office.
  5. You go through an intersection in a flash.
- B. Sometimes storms are of our own making.

## III. “He Fell Asleep”

**Luke 8:23 (ESV)** <sup>23</sup>And as they sailed **he fell asleep**. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.

- A. How could Jesus be sleeping???

**B. You've been in storms of life. Ever felt like Jesus was sleeping?**

1. I'm in trouble! I'm devastated! Where are you, Lord? Don't you know what's going on? Don't you care?
2. **Psalms 13:1-6 (ESV)** <sup>1</sup>How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? <sup>2</sup>How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? <sup>3</sup>Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, <sup>4</sup>lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken. <sup>5</sup>But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. <sup>6</sup>I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

**C. Whose timetable? Whose priority? ("Lord, he whom you love is ill.")**

#### **IV. "They Woke Him"**

**Luke 8:24 (ESV)** <sup>24</sup>And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"

**A. They knew of one whom they could ask for help.**

1. Fear governed their words ("*we perish*").
2. Life's circumstances often loom large.

**B. They would need to be reminded that Jesus was more than their Teacher ("*Where is your faith?*"); he was Master of heaven & earth.**

**Ephesians 3:20-21 (ESV)** <sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

#### **V. "And There Was A Calm"**

**Luke 8:24 (ESV)** <sup>24</sup>...And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

**A. Jesus gave them peace from the terror and insecurity they felt.**

**B. It is not that in order to have peace we must receive an immediate solution, as the disciples did on this occasion. Our peace passes understanding because it DOES NOT REQUIRE an immediate solution.**

**Philippians 4:6-7 (ESV)** <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

#### **VI. "Where is Your Faith?" and "Who Then Is This?"**

**Luke 8:25 (ESV)** <sup>25</sup>He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?"

**A. Jesus reproved his disciples, showing that faith is a CHOICE they must make.**

**B. Remember Job, who feared God but still needed to grow in faith.**

**James 5:10-11 (ESV)** <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the

prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**James 1:2-3 (ESV)** <sup>2</sup>Count it all joy, my brothers, <sup>3</sup>when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup>for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

**C. How did Jesus BUILD their faith? By this and other miracles – “Who is this?”**

**John 20:30-31 (ESV)** <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

## **VII. One Final Observation**

**A. The disciples made it to the other side.**

**B. Our occasional weaknesses of faith do not cause God to forsake us.**

**Romans 8:35-39 (ESV)** <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.