

Sovereign Grace Church
“Knowledge, Storms and Faith” outline
January 27, 2019

Matthew 8: 23-27

This morning we come to one of my favorite passages in the Gospels....the story of the boat ride the disciples took with Jesus. I suspect it was a ride they never forgot about! Some of them were fishermen and they knew how to maneuver boats in the midst of storms. But this storm challenged their skills and they were thinking that all hope was lost. They knew enough about Jesus to know that He had access to powers beyond the natural. But where was He?!

It turns out that He was asleep in the midst of this very violent and life-threatening storm. Jesus was undoubtedly tired from pursuing His ministry with the great crowds of needy and desperate people. But physical exhaustion is usually no competitor with certain death. Adrenaline alone would remind Him of His peril! But His sleeping was not because He was tired or exhausted. He was not a fisherman or a boatman....He could probably build boats as a carpenter...but He had no experience with sailing them. So He did the logical thing and took a nap! The disciples thought He was crazy or at the least didn't care about their situation. But they were wrong...He cared deeply about their situation....but their situation was not quite what they thought. Jesus knew that the problem was not the storm....it was something a little deeper...and the storm was the catalyst to bring it out.

1. What did the disciples know? v. 23

- **They knew God was more powerful than storms.
Psm 89:8-9; 107:23-30**

- **They knew Jesus had access to power beyond the natural.
Matt. 23-24**

- **They were learning that Jesus had a trust in God unlike anything they had seen.**

- **They knew how to sail a boat.**

2. Why were the disciples afraid? vv. 24-25
Matt. 26: 40-41; Gal. 3:3; Jn 15:15

3. Why was Jesus not afraid? v. 24a
Heb. 12:2; Matt. 6:33

4. What did they and can we learn from their experience? vv. 26-27
Eph. 2:4-6; Jn 20:29; Heb. 13:5-6.

Questions for Reflection or Conversation

1. What is faith? How is faith related to knowledge? What do we call faith without knowledge? What do we call knowledge without faith? What do we call knowledge with faith?
2. What are various significant trials that you have undergone in your life? What did you learn? Was your faith built up or lessened because of the trial? Is it possible for your faith to increase without trials of one sort or another? Why is learning about how one should respond during trials not the same as learning how to respond?
3. How is it possible to live in Christ's kingdom and live in this world at the same time? Do you get anxious during personal problems? If you do, why? If you do not, why not? Could there be other reasons for not being anxious in the midst of trials and tribulations? What might they be?
4. What is the principle lesson of this story? Is it a lesson you can learn once for all or is it a matter of growth? How did Peter grow in His faith?

