

BIBLE STORY: JESUS CALMS THE SEA
Matthew 8:23-27

Central Thoughts

- The Church and her Christians often face “great storms” of persecution, temptation from Satan, suffering, the struggle with sin, and the judgment of the Law which threaten our faith in Christ.
- Jesus’ death and resurrection is our salvation from all of these threats.
- By His Word of forgiveness Jesus gives us peace against all the threats to our faith.

Discussion Questions

Who went into the boat first?

Jesus

Who followed Jesus into the boat?

His disciples

What is the boat a symbol of?

The Church

What suddenly happened to the sea?

There was a great “tempest” or storm that arose, so that the boat was covered with the waves.

What is this storm a symbol of?

All the troubles that come upon the Church: persecution, suffering, and the ongoing struggle with sin under which the Law condemns us, and Satan threatens to destroy us.

Where is Jesus when the storm threatens the boat?

He was asleep

What did Jesus’ disciples do?

They awoke Him, saying “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”

What did the disciples fear?

That they were perishing; that they would die

What do Christians and the Church sometimes fear?

That they will be destroyed

What did Jesus do?

He said, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea. And there was a great calm.

Why should we and the Church not be afraid when we face persecution, suffering, and the ongoing struggle with sin and the devil’s temptations and attacks?

Because Jesus went to the cross for us, suffered and died for us, and then rose again from the dead for us to set us free from sin, death, the power of the devil and the judgment of hell.

How did Jesus rebuke the wind and the sea?

With His Word

How does Jesus bring His peace, strength, and safety into our lives and the life of the Church?

By His Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation

How did the disciples respond to Jesus’ stilling the storm?

“Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

What is the answer to the disciples’ question?

He is the Son of God, through whom all things were made, and the Savior who suffered, died, and rose again for the salvation of His Church

What comfort does this give us?

Since God gave us His only-begotten Son to suffer and die for our sins, we know that He will always guard, protect, help, and defend His Church and every Christian who believes in Him.

Meditation on the Bible Story

The Church and her members are often like a boat that is tossed about on a stormy sea. Persecution and suffering for Jesus' sake, the struggle with sin and temptation from the Evil One, the judgment of the Law and a bad conscience can threaten to destroy us like the waves and the wind on a storm-tossed sea. Jesus faced persecution and temptation. He endured all of the threats to our faith by His suffering and death upon the cross. The image of Jesus asleep on the boat and the disciples' fear remind us of the time of Jesus' rest in the tomb. It appeared to the disciples as if all was lost, as if there were no hope, and as if their faith were a lie. But in the midst of their fear and despair, He rose from the dead and rebuked the wind and the waves with His Word of peace. "Do not be afraid, your sins are forgiven! I have suffered and died for you! I have taken your place under the judgment of the Law! I have paid the full price for your redemption! Peace, be still!" And just as there was upon the Sea of Galilee, so also for us, when Jesus speaks His Word of peace into our troubled hearts there is a great calm. Faith and hope is restored by His Word.

Prayer on the Bible Story

O Lord Jesus, when our faith is threatened by sin and temptation, when we are troubled by persecution and suffering for Your name's sake, speak Your Word of peace and comfort into our hearts so that our faith is strengthened and all our fears are taken away. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.



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