

A familiar story from the life of Jesus, told three times: Matthew 8 & Luke 8.

1. → **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** *the lake and the boat.*

THE LAKE

The Sea of Galilee



* 21 km / 13 miles from **North to South** AND 13 km / 8 miles from **West to East**

→ **A shallow lake.** 65 m. / 200 feet at its deepest: **like Lake Erie...** { See where this is going? }

→ Over 200 m / Almost 700 feet **below sea level** ! And surrounded by hills!

A photograph



* “*The Horns of Hattin*”

A huge battle on a hot day in July, 1187

30,000 Muslim soldiers defeated 20,000 Crusaders

* **Winds from all directions:** funnelled through the valleys: **Huge storms!**

THE BOAT



* **“The Jesus Boat”** (and a woman named Jennifer)

* Discovered in 1986. In a drought. (North West shore of the lake)

→ About 8 m. / 27 feet long

→ About 2 m. / 7 ½ feet wide

→ Dated between 50 B.C. and 50 A.D. (“From the time of Jesus”)

✓ Room for 13 men → “**his own disciples**”? (vss.10,34) = “**the apostles**”!

2. → **Q: Why this story?** Because of the **FOUR UNIVERSAL QUESTIONS** it contains. **Two questions** the apostles ask, and **two questions** that Jesus asks, **all of us** need to be able to answer.

READ Mark 4:35-41 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them (“his own disciples” from vs. 34), “**Let us go across to the other side.**” And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, [Q.1] “**Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?**” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “**Peace! Be still!**” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, [Q.2,3] “**Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?**” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, [Q.4] “**Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**”

THE STORY IN DETAIL

Mark 4:35,36 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “**Let us go across to the other side.**” And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.

Here is **A QUESTION** for US: **Why did they agree to “set out”?** Four fishermen! A carpenter by trade (6:3). An amateur rabbi and healer and exorcist. Was it their “**faith**”?

Mark 4:37,38 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, [Q.1] “**Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?**”

LIFE-SAVING LESSONS LEARNED IN A STORM:

1. Questions raised by deadly storms are better **pre-answered**.

Here, we see JESUS as “**the Captain of the ship.**” But it would have been better if they had asked the question **previously**.

[From ships to sheep] **Psalms 23:1,2** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. **WHAT ARE THOSE SHEEP THINKING ABOUT?**

Three things that helped me in 2013

1) **I had already worked out my theology** [The unfair advantage of being a long-time pastor]
e.g. **FAITH** is trusting God (that is, Christ) enough to obey him.

Q: Can Jesus be trusted? **John 10:14,15** I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Q: Does he care that we are perishing? → That is EXACTLY what he cares about!

AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED?

Mark 4:39,40 And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, **"Peace! Be still!"** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. [Someone should say, **"WOW!"**] He said to them, [Q.2] **"Why are you so afraid?"** [Q.3] **"Have you still no faith?"** [These two questions are related!]

LIFE-SAVING LESSONS LEARNED IN A STORM:

2. "Biblical fearlessness" requires "biblical faith."

Psalm 27:1,2,13,14 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ... I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

THE DEFINITION OF FAITH: **FAITH** is trusting God enough to obey him.

Three things that helped me in 2013

1) *I had already worked out my theology*

2) *I belonged to a church* [Again, unfairly advantaged. For my first 29 years, it paid me]

3) *I was in a small group:* Thursday mornings [Again, unfair]

AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED? **Mark 4:41** And they were [still!] filled with great fear and said to one another, [Q.4] **"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"**

They were still fearful! Q. Was this *"the fear of the Lord"*? I don't think so.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

LIFE-SAVING LESSONS LEARNED IN A STORM:

3. "Biblical faith" requires knowing who Jesus is.

Matthew 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

"The Messiah," OR "The Christ" → The Anointed One: the unique and superior **Prophet. Priest. King.**

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John: The Son of Man. The Son of God. God with us. The entirely unique Man.

Mark 4:36 ... they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.

The apostles had him in their boat, "just as he was" --- but they didn't know him.



A very impressive baseball player. (He is a **Most Valuable Player**)

His Twitter username: **@BringerOfRain20**. He means it metaphorically (?) !

But Jesus Christ is much MORE than that! He is **@CalmerOfStorms1** (As the apostles learned first-hand) But that's not all!

Colossians 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

The apostles could have/should have asked previously: **"Who now is this, that even the wind and the sea exist?"**

Colossians 1:16,17 ... all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

So also **@CreatorOfRain1** NOT metaphorically! **@FormerOfStorms1** ! (He must have a reason!)

@MakerOfWindsAndWaves1

@CreatorOfAirandWater1

Good questions: But they waited until they were scared to death to ask. Let us NOT do that!

A GOOD QUESTION: **Mark 4:41** **"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"**