



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Life's Storms

JANUARY 29, 2014

Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a Gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Jesus, during His ministry, traveled to many cities sharing scripture, teaching forgiving sin, physically healing people of demons and disease, and raising the dead. Jesus began to challenge the religious rituals of the day and most importantly shared the Kingdom of God. On this occasion, Luke describes a time and teaching about faith that Jesus shared during a storm.

"Now on one of those days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out. But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they began to be swamped and to be in danger. They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?" (Luke 8: 22-25 NASB)

Jesus' lakeside ministry. Much of Jesus ministry was located in the Galilee region which has a lake. Jesus directed His disciples, followers, learners or students, to get into a boat to go to the other side of the lake. The fresh water lake they were crossing was the Sea of Galilee and also called in scripture, the Sea of Chinneroth (Nm 34:11), the Sea Tiberias, the Lake of Gennesaret, and its current modern Hebrew name is Yam Kinneret. This, lowest in the world at 650 feet below sea level and shallow body of fresh water fed by the Jordan River on the north, is 13 miles long and 6 miles wide and its greatest depth is 200 feet. The sulfur springs in the southern portion of the lake near Tiberias became a health resort area and drew many sick people to the area. Jesus was surrounded by these sick people and He healed many.

Additionally, due to the lakes location and shallow depth, storms were violent and sudden due to the collision of warm air of the desert meeting the cold air off the mountains.

Jesus slept in the boat. Jesus was calm before the storm. Jesus undoubtedly knew that a storm was about to happen or could happen, yet Jesus was calm and likely tired from teaching and activities of the day that He fell asleep.

A sudden fierce wind created a violent storm on the shallow lake. A dangerous strong sudden wind on this shallow lake created great waves and caused the boat to take on swamping waters that could sink the boat. It was the kind of storm that people in that region understood to be deadly. The disciples were afraid and thought that they were about to drown and woke Jesus from His sleep.

Jesus rebuked and calmed the wind and water. Jesus awoke from His sleep and calmed the storm. Jesus was in the storm and remained calm. Jesus knew that He was ruler over all. The disciples were in the storm and were afraid. The disciples saw Jesus control and command the wind and water and were filled with fear and awe of Jesus and His powers.

Knowing and believing. The disciples knew that Jesus could save them but didn't believe that He would. They knew Him but didn't believe Him. They didn't have faith in Jesus. Some knew Him while others believed in Him and had faith.

For Your Consideration:

- Life's lakes will be filled with storms. Are you willing follow His direction to get in the boat with Jesus to cross life's lakes with Him?
- When the storms of life come do you know, believe and have faith that Jesus can and will calm the storm?
- When you are in the middle of the storm trusting in Him will provide a calm and peace that passes all human understanding.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44