

The Heights Baptist Church

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS • NO REASON TO FEAR • LUKE 8:22-25 • 1/10/2021

MAIN POINT

Jesus reigns over all of creation; if our faith is in Him, we have no reason to fear.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Have you ever experienced an emergency situation in which you were the one who needed rescuing? What was it like? How did others help you?

Have you ever been the one who helped rescue someone? Describe the experience.

As Christians, we often use salvation language to refer to the rescue of a person from eternal separation from God. Along with the good news of God's eternal salvation, we need to show and tell that God is the Rescuer of His people in all areas of life. God's salvation involves the here and now, as well as the life to come. This means that when we find ourselves in situations that bring us fear, like the disciples we will read about today, we can trust in the authority and power of Jesus, the One who reigns over all of creation.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 8:22-25.

Why were Jesus and His disciples on the sea when the fierce storm came up?

Contrast the disciples' attitude toward the storm and Jesus' attitude. What are the notable differences?

One of the themes of Luke's Gospel is who Jesus was and what Jesus called for; Luke was not often concerned with the specific things Jesus did and said. All we know about this scene is that Jesus often found need for time away, and at this time He picked an isolated boat. However, while Jesus slept a storm set in, and the disciples questioned if they and their Messiah would die in this storm. The disciples' fear was palpable. Jesus, however, was asleep.

The disciples' fear was not baseless; this storm posed a real danger for them. What are some of the common fears we have in life? What concerns or beliefs are at the heart of those fears?

In the face of their fear, the disciples turned to Jesus. What important lesson does that hold for us?

The disciples panicked and turned to Jesus to help them. They may not have understood the full scope of Jesus' mission and identity yet, and verse 25 alludes to their being surprised by His miracle, but they still turned to Him in their fear. This story shows us the true condition of man. The disciples feared they were going to die in this storm, but they were also perishing in their sin. Behind our fears today is the brokenness of creation and all the ways it distorts our identity and our world. The disciples were perishing, and so are we without the intervention of Jesus.

Verse 24 records Jesus' calming of the storm. Read Psalm 89:8-9 and Psalm 107:23-32. How do God's actions in the psalms compare to Jesus' actions in Luke 8? What does this reiterate about Jesus?

Do you think the disciples were familiar with the Old Testament accounts of God's power over the sea—His ability to calm and stir up storms? How do you think this impacted their opinion of Jesus' power?

Jesus rebuked the wind and spoke to the sea with the result that the wind died down and became perfectly calm. Jesus performed a miracle over nature. Not only did the wind stop blowing, but the water also became calm. Luke pictured Jesus doing what in the Old Testament only God could do. The sovereign Lord spoke, and His creation immediately obeyed.

The disciples' fear didn't stop when Jesus calmed the storm (v. 25). How did their fear after the storm compare with their fear before the storm?

Jesus attributed the disciples' fear to a lack of faith in Him. Think about the specific fears we mentioned earlier. What do our fears reveal about our faith?

Jesus rebuked His disciples for the lack of faith expressed in their terror and panic. Faith in this context refers to trust in God's saving power as revealed in the person and work of Jesus. Despite Jesus' explanations to His disciples about the kingdom of God having come in Him, they still lacked understanding. A sense of fear and awe came over the disciples as a result of Jesus' mighty act. This event revealed His power over nature. The disciples had encountered the divine Son of God in the teacher they had followed.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What situation in your life right now is requiring an active choice of faith rather than fear? What changes when you view that situation through the help and strength that Jesus brings?

What is one step you can take toward trusting Jesus this week?

What are some practical ways we can help one another choose to trust Jesus in the face of our fears?

PRAYER

Thank God for demonstrating His love so boldly and freely by giving up His Son on the cross for our sins. Pray that the Lord would help us trust that He is constantly working for our good, even in the midst of trials and difficulties. Ask God to help us testify of His goodness and mercy as we face the storms of life.

COMMENTARY

| LUKE 8:22-25

8:22-23. When a boat trip across the Sea of Galilee ran into a fierce windstorm, Jesus slept in the boat while His disciples faced the storm and feared they would die.

8:24. His desperate disciples awakened Jesus with the news they were drowning. He spoke not to the fearful disciples, but to the raging winds. They heard the word of Jesus and obeyed. Calm. Still. Clear skies. No rain. No danger. The God who could command the powers of the sea to swallow Jonah could also still the power of the seas to save his Son and the disciples. The God who could divide the Egyptian Sea and Jordan River to give his people freedom and land could also rebuke the storm to reveal his ultimate source of salvation.

Now a word for the disciples: "Where is your faith?" Certainly, their faith did not approach that of the centurion or the faith of the sinful woman with an alabaster jar of perfume. Were they thorny soil where the Word of God was choked out by the cares and worries of life? Or would they listen to the Word of God? How could Jesus question the faith of men who had followed him so faithfully throughout his ministry men who had forsaken occupations, family, and security for the nomadic, homeless life of their Master?

8:25. Fear gripped the disciples, fear of the storm, but much more a reverent fear in the face of one who feared no storms. Who could this be (see 5:21; 7:20, 49; 9:9)? Messiah! King! Savior! If nature obeys him, does anyone have equal power? Who would not obey such a one? But the one who obeys is the one who listens and knows and practices the Word. Who were these men called the Twelve? Jesus' question shows who they were. They were men marveling at someone they loved—someone they could not understand completely. They were men willing to follow this man to find out what he was up to, but not having a real clue as to the ultimate end they faced.

The disciples were men seeing Jesus' marvelous power at work in new ways every day—but men not expecting what was coming. They were men of strong character but men nonetheless. Times of crisis saw them reverting to the emotions of common humanity, ignoring and forgetting the power of the one they followed. Jesus looked to the day when danger would no longer bring fear but expectation of divine intervention. At this point, that day had not yet come. The disciples still tried to figure out exactly who Jesus was and where he was going. They tried to confront earthly peril and danger with earthly means. They let human fears rule their lives. Only crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and Pentecost would change that.