

Matthew 8:23-27
Master of the Storm Part 2
Jesus is the Master of the Boat

Have you ever missed your destination by a little or a lot? Michal and I did last week. We were in Denver on Monday and as we were coming home we took 470 off of Pena Blvd. As we were driving, actually I was driving, we began seeing things that were not familiar to us and as we looked closer, sure enough we had missed the I-75 exit by 10 miles or so.

Now if you know the area, getting back to 75 is not an easy task. It took us about 30 minutes to make our way back to where we needed to be so we could continue our trip home.

That was not as bad as a couple we knew back in Garnett. They were 90-91, I don't remember for sure, but they were headed to Indiana to see one of their kids and before they realized something was wrong, they were in Michigan, almost to Canada. When they got tired, they pulled into a rest stop and rested, when they needed gas, they got gas but they kept driving, not realizing they were way beyond their destination.

That can happen to us in life in different ways cant it? We can miss the signs and go beyond our destination. If you are like Michal and I, missing your turn by just a few miles is an inconvenience, but for the other couple, it was a major, life changing event. Their children were worried sick. They had no idea what might have happened to them. The police throughout many states were looking for them. And in the end, the children decided their driving privileges should be removed for their safety. Like I said, life changing.

The same is true of us if we miss the signs concerning spiritual matters. If we miss the signs by just a little, then if we are listening God will turn us around and head us off in the right direction. There might be a little delay in your spiritual growth but you'll soon recover.

But not so if you miss the spiritual signs by miles and miles, years and years. It can stunt your spiritual growth and the consequences can be devastating at times.

As a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ I am very aware of the importance of this first verse in your outline. Read it with me.

2 Timothy 2:15, “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

I know and carry the weight of this verse with me every time I preach, teach or share the Bible in some way. I consistently study and pray that God will lead me in the things He wants me to share with you. I pray that it is correct because if it is not, then I am responsible for leading you astray and not only is that not good for you but not good for me in a couple of different ways.

First, it is not good to be heading off in the wrong direction. Heading in the wrong direction the country is unfamiliar and the traps Satan has set on it are real and very deceiving. Secondly, as a minister of the Gospel, when I face Jesus and God, I will be held to a higher accountability.

I share this with you this morning because as you know, if you were here last week or watched the service on-line, you know that I was troubled towards the end of my sermon. There was something going on that I could not put my finger on but it was palatable more to me than you I suppose. There was still some good teaching within the sermon but I missed the mark on a part of it and I was bothered until what it was came to light.

I will share that in just a moment but first, lets read our passage from the Gospel of Matthew. I am going to go back to verse 18 as a lead in to verses 23-27.

Matthew 8:18, 23-27, “Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea. 23-27, “When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, ‘Save us, Lord; we are perishing!’ He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?’ Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. The men were amazed, and said, ‘What kind of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?’”

Here is what I missed last week that bothered me so much. Look again at verses 18 & 23. **Matthew 8:18, “Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea. When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.”**

1. Whose instruction, orders, was it to get in the boat? _____

1. Whose instruction, orders, was it to get in the boat? Jesus

2. Who then was the Master of the Boat, giving the heading for the journey? _____

2. Who then was the Master of the Boat, giving the heading for the journey? Jesus

It was Jesus wasn't it? Jesus was the one who asked His disciples to follow Him and Jesus was the one who stepped into the boat and His disciples followed.

This is where I was wrong last week and I fear, a lot of Christians can get their journey wrong with Jesus. I said a couple of times that Jesus is in your boat. But if that is the case then you are in the wrong boat.

The call wasn't for Jesus to get in your boat and because of that you are blessed in your life.

3. The call to discipleship is for people to step into Jesus' boat, following Him and to allowing Him to set the course

If we are setting the course of the boat then what we are doing is still going our way and then asking Jesus to bless it.

You have heard the phrase, God is my co-pilot. That is bad theology. God does not want to be your co-pilot. He wants to be your pilot period. There is no middle ground. Anytime we grab the yoke or steering wheel, we put ourselves back in control and that is we get off course and things begin to get a little funky, a bit more difficult.

We can quickly find ourselves in a foreign land where things are unfamiliar and even dangerous and if we are not careful it can take us a long way off the course of our spiritual development. And then it can take some time to regain proper spiritual perspective, regain our bearings and get headed back on the course with Jesus.

I was speaking with someone last week who said this very thing. He said when he drifts away from daily connecting with God then when he does come back there is a great homecoming but it does take time to get tuned back in and headed in the right direction.

The truth is, Jesus wants us to get in the boat with Him and take the journey with Him wherever He wants to go.

Now, as we think about the teaching from Matthew, we know a great storm arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. And as I said last week it must have been quite a storm if indeed there were fishermen in the boat and they were scared for their lives.

When they woke Jesus up we read in verse 26 He said the following.

Vs. 26, “He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?’”

Their faith was lacking because they didn't know who was in the boat. They didn't understand that Jesus was the Master of the Boat, Master of the Storm, and most importantly He was and is the Son of God.

If we are in Jesus' boat, on a journey He asks us to go on with Him, we have the same protection they did.

Here is a question concerning this story. Do you think Jesus knew there was going to be a life threatening storm appear on the sea. We are not told for sure but we know Jesus saw things in the future like a disciple sitting under a fig tree, that Peter was going to be tempted three times, that He was going to the cross and it was going to be difficult. So for Jesus to know there was going to be a storm is not a stretch is it?

So if you are in the boat with Jesus, in Jesus' boat, on Jesus' journey, then it makes sense that

4. Jesus already knows what storms in this life you are going to be hit with because it is His journey you are on

Again, if you are on a journey with Him, it really His journey isn't it?

Here is another thing the disciples hadn't grasped.

In the life of Jesus, nothing could happen to Him until it was allowed from God His Father. When Jesus appeared before Pilate, Pilate told Jesus that he had the authority to release Jesus or to crucify Him. Jesus answered, “You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given from above.”

Meaning, Jesus, who was and is the Son of God, was protected by God the Father. Nothing or nobody could touch Him unless the God His Father allowed it.

If the disciples would have understood who they were in the boat with, they would have had nothing to fear. God wouldn't allow the weather, man or the devil touch Him therefore because they were with Jesus the same was true of them.

That is the blessing and protection of being in Jesus' boat and being on the journey with Jesus. Look with me at a couple scriptures from Romans 8.

Romans 8:31, 35, 38-39, "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am convinced that neither death, not life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, depth or any other created things, will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

If we are in Jesus' boat and we are experiencing the powerful love of God over us the I believe the following is true.

5. Within in the love of God is found protection, provision and true life

Giving your life to Jesus means He places Himself in you, then He protects His life in you as well as your life, and He also provides for the journey He takes you on. If this is true then the question we always have to come back to is, have I given my life to Jesus and do I continue to give my life to Jesus every day.

Do I stay in Jesus' boat or am I getting into my own boat and then asking Jesus to bless my journey?

Now before I go on I will tell you and many of you have experienced that being on a journey with Jesus is not a cake walk. It is hard. It is hard to surrender your life and to stay surrendered. The pulls of the world, the enemy and the flesh are strong.

After some great personal teaching for the disciples in John 14-16, teaching which I would highly recommend each of you read and study, we come to this passage I quoted last week. Jesus said in **John 16:33**, **“I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**

No one gets through this world unscathed. This world is a tough place and it is getting tougher all the time. But if you are in the boat with Jesus, nothing can touch you that is not allowed by God or Jesus. Where we get hit really hard is when we hop into our own boat, chart our own course, taking the wheel in our own hands.

But being in the boat with Jesus is exciting. The things the disciples who followed Jesus got to see Him do and teach were incredible. Walking on water, healing people, feeding people, raising the dead, watching Jesus being raised from the dead and then ascending into heaven.

Look at something else they disciples were rewarded with as they followed Jesus.

Luke 9:1-2, And He (Jesus) called the twelve together and He gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.”

Luke 10:1, 9, “Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others (seventy other disciples) and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come...heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘the kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

Those who followed Jesus were able to see a lot, do a lot. You too, as you take a journey in the boat of Jesus, you will see miraculous things. Lives changed including your own. Protection from more than you know. God providing for you in numerous ways.

You will get to know God and Jesus. You will get more insight into who they are, how much they love you. How patient they are with you and how forgiving they are with you.

Think also about the disciples and what they are experiencing. Life with Jesus in heaven. Life with their brothers and sisters in Christ and possibly brothers and sisters in this life as well as any family members who accepted Jesus as their Savior. They might possibly be in the throne room of God at times. They are interacting with prophets of old and angels and no telling what else they are experiencing in heaven.

The same is true for us isn't it? The journey with Jesus is rewarding in this life and in the next. The things we will get to see in the next life are beyond description but they will be great.

In closing, the journey with Jesus is a great one but there will be storms in this life but if your in the Master's Boat, who have nothing to fear for He is the Master of the Storm.

What kind of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him? He is no mere man. He is the God-man who has all authority in heaven and on earth. He is the one who lives in you and you in Him. Why are you afraid Jesus asks? Fear not, for I am with you and in you is His answer. Let's pray