

“THE POWER OF THE KING!!!!”

4 / 19 / 20

Matthew 8: 23—27

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INTRODUCTION— IT IS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO FOLLOW JESUS DAILY, when we want to ALSO do something else. Bobby had just gotten his driver’s license, and his parents had just started to let him drive the old family car, that no one else would drive. By the time Bobby arrived at the ball field at Noon, the football game had already started. “Why are you so late?” asked his friend. “I couldn’t decide between going to church and going to the football game. You know, my mom and dad have always said, ‘Following Jesus is what you do every day and especially every Sunday.’ But I wanted to see this game! So—I tossed a coin,” said Bobby. “But that shouldn’t have taken too long.” said the friend. Bobby: “Well, I had to toss it 35 times.”

JESUS NEVER SAID IT WAS EASY TO BE A CHRISTIAN— following JESUS means NOT having EVERY THING go YOUR OWN way, or the WAY you EXPECT things to go!! For you can see HIS POWER at work in YOUR LIFE, and in the lives of PEOPLE AROUND YOU!! That is what TODAY’S SCRIPTURE LESSON is about. This BIBLE passage is about:

I. THE POWER of the KING OVER CIRCUMSTANCES —

8: 23—27

1. JUST BEFORE JESUS TOOK HIS DISCIPLES out on the LAKE— He answered questions from a couple of people of

‘How to follow’ Jesus. Jesus wanted to ERASE from ANYONE’S MIND the idea that following him could be done HALF-HEARTEDLY.

2. THERE IS ALWAYS SOME PRICE TO BE PAID IN ORDER TO FOLLOW JESUS— it may be GIVING UP something, some old habit or old activity THAT IS NOT SUITED FOR A CHRISTIAN; it may be GIVING UP some old prejudice or GRUDGE you’ve held for years. IT COULD EVEN BE SOMETHING MORE SERIOUS— holding money or possessions AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN JESUS CHRIST.

3. SO— JESUS and the disciples got on a boat & began to sail across the lake— the Sea of Galilee. NOW several of the disciples were FISHERMEN— they were accustomed to sailing on this lake & fishing there AT NIGHT. THEY ALSO

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KNEW how the surrounding MOUNTAINS could CHANNEL a STORM onto the lake with LITTLE WARNING. **Normally, the FISHERMEN would stay rather CLOSE TO THE SHORE, but JESUS wanted to get across the lake QUICKLY, so they were**

sailing STRAIGHT ACROSS to save time.

4. When MATTHEW originally wrote this story, the word he used in the Greek meant “tremor” or “EARTHQUAKE” — which tells us how quickly and VIOLENTLY the storm came up on the disciples and the BOAT. *AND THEY PANICKED!!* “Lord, save us!!

We’re going to drown!! We’ll all die!!”

5. *AREN’T YOU LIKE THAT SOMETIMES?!?* AREN’T ALL OF US LIKE THAT, SOMETIMES?!? When the STORMS of LIFE COME UPON US SUDDENLY & without warning, WE

PANIC & cry out, “Save me, Lord! Save me!!”

Maybe that is a NORMAL reaction for every person.

6. JESUS RESPONDED to the DISCIPLES’ PANIC, as He does to ours with CALM ASSURANCE— “Why are you worried? Why are you afraid? Have you no faith??” He rebuked the STORM just as he rebuked DEMONS— and the storm obeyed, just as the demons would do.

7. When the STORMS of life seem to be blowing all around you, and there seems to be NO WHERE TO TURN TO, and you feel that you are ABOUT TO DROWN—

LOOK to JESUS! CALL ON HIM— calm down, and PLACE YOUR TRUST IN HIM, and look to Him TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH the ROUGH WATERS, and He WILL carry you through and SILENCE the storm. JESUS WILL bring PEACE and TRANQUILITY to your life.

In the LAST section of this chapter, we see:

II. THE POWER of the KING OVER EVIL —

— 8: 28— 34

1. JESUS and the disciples, upon reaching the shore, entered some land of the GENTILES (non-Jews). THERE, THEY MET 2 men POSSESSED by DEMONS. THE DEMONS in the men RECOGNIZED WHO JESUS WAS:

“What do you want with us, Son of God? Have you come to TORTURE US before the appointed time?”

2. THE DEMONS KNEW WHO JESUS WAS !! They **KNEW** that Jesus was **GOD-IN-THE-FLESH**, or **“the Son of God.”** **WHEN JAMES wrote the Letter of JAMES in the N. T., he said:**

“You believe in God? Good!

***Even the DEMONS believe— and shudder.*” (3:19)**

3. THE PROBLEM THAT the DEMONS in these 2 men

had was **NOT** in UNDERSTANDING WHO JESUS WAS— *their problem was in **THEIR REBELLION AGAINST GOD!!***

4. AND YET JESUS DEMONSTRATED HIS POWER over DEMONS as he had shown his POWER & AUTHORITY over NATURE—with HIS WORD, He CAST OUT the demons. And the men were made WHOLE.

5. This shows the POWER of JESUS— **POWER to HEAL**, **POWER to OVERCOME ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**— even those circumstances AGAINST WHICH HUMAN RESOURCES ARE USELESS!

That brings us to:

III. THE POWER of the KING — and YOU

A. In FOLLOWING Jesus, what must you “**GIVE UP**”??

1. IS there something which you are HOLDING ONTO, that is KEEPING YOU FROM TAKING HOLD OF JESUS??

2. OR DO YOU NEED to “GIVE UP” the EXCUSES you have made for not TRUSTING JESUS as LORD & SAVIOR, for NOT INVITING CHRIST into YOUR LIFE and FOLLOWING Him EACH DAY as your LEADER in life?? **DO YOU KEEP FLIPPING the COIN, HOPING to GET WHAT YOU WANT, LIKE BOBBY???**

3. WHATEVER YOUR HESITATION MIGHT BE, REMEMBER that the COST of FOLLOWING JESUS is **ALWAYS** OUTWEIGHED by the BENEFITS of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior— BECAUSE YOU GAIN:

B. THE STRENGTH OF JESUS CHRIST to CONQUER **ANY ADVERSITY**, any “storm”, any TRIAL in life.

SECOND, you are blessed with:

C. The **PRESENCE** of JESUS in your LIFE—

Regardless of the HURT, the ALONE FEELING, JESUS WILL ALWAYS BE THERE to GIVE COMFORT, GUIDANCE, PEACE of HEART, and to BLESS YOU with HIS LOVE.

AND, OF COURSE, He will give you:

D. THE POWER of JESUS CHRIST— POWER to OVERCOME the forces of THIS fallen, SINFUL WORLD— POWER to DEFEAT the forces of God's enemies who might TROUBLE YOU.

D. PATRICIA COLLINS was 27, and the mother of SEAN, a BUBBLY 7 yr. old boy, when she decided, at SEAN'S PLEADING, to let her son ride a church bus to a local church each Sunday. PATRICIA did not feel that she was an ATHEIST exactly, but considering that she had FAILED IN 2 MARRIAGES, smoked MARIJUANA and EXPERIMENTED WITH DRUGS off & on since she was 14, SHE DIDN'T FEEL THAT GOD HAD EVER DONE MUCH FOR HER— so why should she believe in Him?

On the 3rd Sunday that SEAN rode the church bus, the BUS DRIVER, a man named GEORGE GLOVER, stopped in to talk with PATRICIA. She told him many of these things about her life, & explained that she didn't think that ANYONE could know if there were a heaven because there was no PROOF that heaven really existed. George asked, "If I show you from the Bible the way to heaven, will you do what it says?" She said that since she wasn't there when the Bible was written, she couldn't know that what it says is true. BUT GEORGE SAID: "Do you believe that GEORGE WASHINGTON crossed the Delaware?" "Yes," Patricia said. "But you WEREN'T THERE AT THE TIME, so HOW DO YOU KNOW FOR SURE?" George asked.

PATRICIA said later that "IT WAS AS THOUGH SOMEONE HAD FLICKED ON THE LIGHT SWITCH IN A DARK ROOM. The

possibility that the Bible could **ACTUALLY BE TRUE** made me yearn to hear more of what **GEORGE** had to say.” She listened **INTENTLY** as George talked about **SIN**, and about **SALVATION** through **JESUS CHRIST**.

That day **GEORGE GLOVER** led **PATRICIA** to pray to Christ— to open her heart to Jesus Christ, repent of her sins, & invite Jesus to enter her heart & life, and make her the **PERSON** that He wanted her to be. She said: “There was an **IMMEDIATE CHANGE** in my **HEART**, one that I knew was brought on not by **ME**, but by **GOD**.” She started attending church the very next Sunday. **SHE SOON CALLED HER SON’S GODPARENTS**, who were **STRONG CHRISTIANS**— they **REJOICED** to hear of her conversion, & said they had been praying for her for more than 10 years.

PATRICIA SAID: “After I accepted Christ, my desire for drugs was replaced with the stronger desire to know about God whom I had once so vehemently denied.” **SHE BEGAN TELLING HER CO-WORKERS** about the **REASON** for the changes in her personality & attitudes **THAT THEY SO CLEARLY SAW**— within the first 6 months after her **CONVERSION** (by the **POWER** of the **HOLY SPIRIT** in her), **PATRICIA** had led 14 co-workers, several friends and strangers, and **HER OWN SON** to **JESUS CHRIST** as **SAVIOR**. Today, she teaches Sunday school in her church, **WITNESSES** to homeless people at missions on **SKID ROW**, and visits people in **REST HOMES** and in jails— and says: “I do all for the glory of **JESUS CHRIST** my Savior.” 7

CONCLUSION— Where are **YOU** today with **JESUS CHRIST??** Are you hopeful of the **BENEFITS** of **KNOWING THAT JESUS IS YOUR SAVIOR & LORD??** For the **REWARDS** of His **STRENGTH** to

DEFEAT THE STORMS OF LIFE & bring His peace & calm into your life?? To see His POWER at work in your life— to HEAL YOU, TO GIVE YOU STRENGTH to OVERCOME the trials and troubles of THIS WORLD and RESCUE YOU from things when YOUR OWN RESOURCES are not enough??