

Little or Great Faith Pt. 2

The storms of life

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When Jesus sleeps in the storm (Mt 8:22-27; Mk 4:35-40; Lk 8:22-25)

Mt 8:23-27 When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 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. 25 And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" 26 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. 27 The men were amazed, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Mk 4:35-40 On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. 37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. 38 Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. 40 And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?"

Lk 8:22-25 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. 23 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. 24 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. 25 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?"

The Story:

Jesus says, "Let us go over to the other side" (Mk 4:35; Lk 8:22)

Jesus falls asleep (Mt 8:24; Mk 4:38; Lk 8:22)

A sudden [great, fierce] storm overcomes the boat and begins to sink the boat.

They wake Jesus saying:

Mt 8:25 "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." (Lk 8:24)

Mk 4:38 "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Jesus rebukes the storm and calms the sea.

And He says to them:

Mt 8:26 He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?"

Mk 4:40 ... "Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mk 4:36-41)

Lk 8:25 And He said to them, "Where is your faith?"

How to have faith in life's storms

Know that storms will come in life.

Mt7:24-27 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. 26 "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall."

Know God's promises

Rom 4:18-21 In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE." 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

Remember that God loves you, no matter the circumstance

Rom 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Storms prepare you for supernatural encounters

Mt 14:22-33 Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. 23 After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. 24 But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. 25 And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. 26 When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." 28 Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

Only in Matthew's gospel do we find this account of Peter walking on the water.

This story is also recorded in Mk 6:45-51 and Jn 6:15-21

The Story:

Jesus sees them in the storm, He comes to them, walking on the sea
[Jesus intended to pass by them (Mk 6:48)]

The disciples see Him walking on the sea, they are terrified, and say, "It is a ghost!" (Mt 14:26)

Jesus says to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." (Mt 14:27; Mk 6:50)

Peter's response, "If it is you ...;" Jesus says "come;" (Mt 14:28-29)

Peter leaves the boat; walks [towards Jesus] on the water (Mt 14:29)

But seeing the wind, [his eyes look away from Jesus] (Mt 14:30)
Peter becomes fearful
Peter begins to sink
Peter cries out [in fear], "Lord, save me!"

Jesus takes Peter by His hand and says to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Mt 14:31)

Lessons:

Jesus always sees what you are struggling with.

1Pt 3:12 "FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE TOWARD THE RIGHTEOUS, AND HIS EARS ATTEND TO THEIR PRAYER, ... (Ps 32:8; 33:18; 34:15; Zec 2:8)

God waits to intervene until we have exhausted our resources

This was a storm that they could handle [that's why Jesus was going to walk by them].

Identify where the Lord is and what He is speaking.

They saw a ghost and not Jesus.

Peter says "If, it is You ..."

The miracle is not complete because you take the first step.

There will still be winds and waves to battle.

Miracles happen when we keep our eyes on Jesus and not the obstacles