



NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

Supplemental Texts

Gen. 1:1-2; 2 Sam. 22:16; Pss. 18:6; 24:1-2; 29:3-4; 33:6-9; 77:16-20; 89:8-9; 104:5-9; 106:8-12; Isa. 51:9-10; Jonah 1:1-16; Matt. 8:23-27; 14:22-31; Mark 4:35-41; 6:47-52; 9:24; Luke 1:65-66; 2:9, 18, 33; 4:22, 35-36, 39, 41; 5:1; 8:21; 9:43; 11:14; John 1:14-18;

Study Summary

Following several parables about the God's word and an encounter that emphasizes the importance of listening to and obeying God's word comes a story that emphasizes the power of Jesus' word to save as He calms a storm with a word. This encounter with the storm "begins a cycle of three miracles that highlight Jesus' power and authority."

Historical & Theological Background

The Lake: Lake Gennesaret, "Elsewhere called the Sea of Galilee" (Mark 1:16) or the Sea of Tiberias (John 6:1). "Situated in a basin surrounded by mountains, the Sea of Galilee is particularly susceptible to sudden, violent storms. Cool air from the Mediterranean is drawn down through the narrow mountain passes and clashes with the hot, humid air lying over the lake."

Water in the Bible: "Water has both positive and negative aspects; it can give life or cause destruction." In this passage we have an example of the negative use. "God is often described as fighting or subduing destructive waters such as the 'sea' and the 'mighty waters' (Hab. 3:15), which is often personified as Rahab (Ps. 89:10; Isa. 51:9), Leviathan (Ps. 74:14; Is. 27:1), a monster (Ps. 74:13), ect. Some identify these enemies as uncreated chaos water, the enemy of the Creator in primordial times. But in the Bible there is no battle at the creation of the universe. Rather the water motif is used to indicate that God's enemies are destined to be destroyed by Him, whether they are the historical enemies of Israel (as in Exod. 15:8-10) or spiritual enemies (as in Is. 27)." God is in control and even the forces of evil must obey Him. This is brought out in our passage as Jesus rebukes the waves just as He rebuked the demons (Luke 4:41) and Peter's mother-in-laws fever (Luke 4:39). Jesus both shows His power over the forces of nature and "demonstrates that he stands entirely on the side of God, who alone according to the OT (Ps 18:6 = 2 Sam 22:16; Ps 104:7, etc.)" "has the right to overcome the godless powers." In this act He foreshadows the defeat of evil at the cross and the consumption of His Kingdom when Christ returns to set all things right.

[All citations from: *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament; NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible, GE D.A. Carson; TNIV Study Bible, GE Kenneth L. Baker; New Dictionary of Biblical Theology*]

DISCUSSION PRIMER

After reading the passage (Luke 8:22-25) take a moment to meditate on a time God intervened in the midsts of a fearful point in your own life and brought peace, just as Jesus does for the disciples. Spend some time writing out a prayer of thanks. Prepare to share your story in group discussion.

TEXTUAL INVESTIGATION

LUKE 8:22-25

Big Idea: Jesus is Powerful to Save and Deserving of Faith and Obedience

Fallen Condition Focus: Lack of Faith

- What lake is Jesus referring to in verse 22? (See Luke 5:1 and HTB)
- What did Jesus do as they sailed (v. 23)? What happens while they are on the lake (v. 23)?
- How does the disciples respond to the storm (v. 24)?
- How does Jesus respond to the disciples pleas (v. 24)?
- What does the storm do in response to Jesus' rebuke (v. 24)? When else has there been an immediate response to Jesus' rebuke? (See Luke 4:35, 39, 41)(See HTB)
- Why does Jesus ask the disciples about their faith (v. 25)? How do their actions during the storm reveal a lack or lapse in faith?
- What is the response of the disciples to this miracle (v. 25)? What are some other times that the miracles of Jesus caused such a response? (See Luke 5:25-26; 7:15-16)
- Why are the disciples show shake by Jesus' display of power? What does this miracle say about His identity? (See Pss. 24:1-2 and 89:8-9)

Gospel Connection: This story alludes to the story of Jonah, but with a twist. Read Jonah 1:1-16. How is Jesus the better Prophet, the One who is powerful to save and deserving of faith and obedience?

TEXTUAL INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- Why is it hard to have a vibrant faith when surrounded by a society that does not recognize Jesus for who He is?
- Do you live your life resting in the power and mercy of God? Why or why not? What would change if you became more aware of His presence in your life?
- What things make you afraid? What do you turn to when you are afraid?
- Share a time when Jesus met you in your distress, fear, or heartache with a word that "calmed the storm". How does remembering these times help to grow our faith?
- This story follows a statement of Jesus that emphasizes the importance of hearing God's word and putting it into practice (Luke 8:21). How does the display of Jesus' powerful word emphasize the importance hearing and obeying? How are you putting your faith into practice?
- What would it look like for you to grow in your faith—in an active trust in God?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read Luke 8:22-25 and explore together what the passage reveals about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

TEXTUAL APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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| • a command to obey? | • a beauty to behold? | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe? | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell? |