"Teacher, Do You Not Care that We Are Perishing?"

Matthew 8:23-27

Does God care for you?

- Does Jesus not exemplify that over and over here in the gospels?
- God cares so much that he shows us in His word, in His promises, in His examples, in His prophets, in men, women, young people all throughout the world.
- He shows us not to worry.
- He calms the storms. He is with us in the storms.
- So why do we doubt? Did you doubt this week?
- Why do we doubt His promises, doubt His love, doubt His great care?
- Well, just like our children doubt, no matter how much we reassure them!

Why do we doubt?

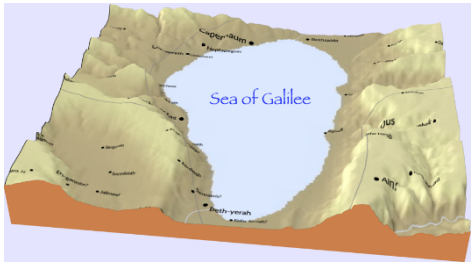
- Maybe perhaps the same reason the disciples did.
- They were with Christ (as we have seen chapters 5-8).
- They saw the miracles, heard the sermon, preaching and teaching.
- He spent time, He reassured, He spoke truth…
- Now things are going wrong (STORM)
- Does Jesus care? Absolutely! A crisis to us is nothing to God!
- But we see these same disciples saying: "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38)

Jesus teaches these disciples some important lessons here…

<u>You need to understand the presence of Jesus in your life…</u>

Particularly in difficult times.

I. During the storms



- Lake of Galilee storms – 13 miles long, 8 miles wide:
- Small fishing boats
- Sea of Galilee: 600 feet below sea level
- Warm water all year round – cool northerly winds blow down the valley blow against the cliffs of the east and west swirling up the lake like a giant cauldron. Waves would reach 7 feet!
- Storms would come up without warning – even today.
- Where is Jesus? He is asleep!

The Bible talks about sleep:

- Portrayed in a way that it's God's blessing, God's peace, God's goodness, so He gives us sleep:

Psalm 4:8 – *"I will both lie down and sleep in peace,*
for You alone, Lord, make me live in safety."

Psalm 127:2 – *"It is useless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, anxiously working for food to eat; for God gives rest to his beloved ones."*
Proverbs 3:24 – *"If you lie down, you will not be afraid;*
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet."
Ecclesiastes 5:12 – *"The sleep of the worker is sweet, whether he eats little or much, but the abundance of the rich permits him no sleep."*
Jeremiah 31:26 – *"At this I awoke and looked, and my sleep had been pleasant to me."*

II. Despite weak faith

A. How they approached Christ (v.25) Mark: "Don't you care?"

- In fear
- Did all they could do.
- Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:14; Isaiah 37:14) spread the letter out before the Lord.
- Their problem was not coming to Christ, but how they came! – in fear,

B. Jesus' response 1st (v.26)



- The storm is raging,
- They're standing in a foot of water,
- They have to shout over the storm, (wind & waves)
- And Jesus says: "Why are you so fearful?"
- And then says: "O ye of little faith!"
- Haven't you seen enough of my power?
- Haven't you seen…?

III. Knowing the Lord

A. Did these disciples really know him?

- Their failure to know who he really was (v.27)
- The Messiah – could they really think that a squall on the Sea of Galilee could swamp their boat and take the life of the Messiah whose mission was to die for mankind?
- The Creator, He controls what He created
- 2 Greek words: (Mark 4:39) - be quiet, - be still; and there was a great calm.

B. Knowing authentically Him, strengthens our faith!

<u>Conclusion:</u>

- How well do you know the Lord?
- You can know a lot about God; do you really know God?
- These disciples apparently thought they knew
- Faith needs constant strengthening & learning.
- Here's Matthew's point: so many times, people have not come to grips with who Jesus really is and,
- That is why their faith is weak! Philippians 3:10 *"That I may know Him…"*