

Asleep in the Storm

Luke 8:22-25

The second half of Luke 8 presents four miracles that tell us about Jesus' power and authority. The first one tells us of his authority over the forces of nature.

Sovereign over the storm

If you have ever stood in a severe storm you know how remarkable it is that Jesus calms this storm. The fact that he does has three implications:

1. Who Jesus is: Men cannot command the wind and waves to obey them. Only God can do that. The disciples knew that and are left questioning: if Jesus can do this, who is Jesus?

2. He could have stopped it from happening: If Jesus could stop this storm, surely he could have stopped it happening in the first place, and he could stop any of the storms that hit our lives. But he doesn't. In fact the Bible promises that we will have trouble in this life.

3. You are not at the mercy of circumstances: if Jesus is Sovereign over the storm and if he allows these storms in our lives, then he is also sovereign over your life during your storm. These things aren't your sovereign. God is.

Sleeping in the storm

The fact that Jesus fell asleep tells us he was a real man. It is because he lived, suffered and died as a real man that he can sympathise with us and we can approach God's throne with confidence.

But with Jesus fast asleep the disciples question his love and care for them. When we face difficulties we can often do the same. But that God allows us to experience such times is not an indication of his lack of love for us – it's the opposite: God disciplines those whom he loves.

Teaching during the storm

Jesus used this storm to teach the disciples about faith. They had faith, they just weren't using it. The difficulties we face are opportunities to take our faith out and use it: faith applied in the midst of pressure. And whilst we may never know why God allows us to experience specific trials the Bible gives us some clues as to what God would have us learn during such times:

1. Humility: We learn that we are not God. We cannot stop the storm. We are not as in control as we thought we were. Because God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble we should be grateful for anything that humbles our pride.

2. Comfort: (2 Cor 1:3-4) In a fallen world everyone experiences such storms. We can only comfort others during such times because we have been through them ourselves.

3. Personal Growth: (John 15:2; Hebrews 12:10-11) God uses trials to help us grow in holiness and fruitfulness.