

Episode #735 Matthew 8 Part 3-Lord of the Storm

I. The purpose of the gospel of Matthew is to present Jesus as the Christ, the King of Israel. It is another grand treatise like John to prove to Israel Who Jesus really is. It is the book of being “in Israel,” in contrast to believers today who are “in Christ.”

II. The Lord healed Peter’s mother-in-law of a deadly fever with a touch, and healed many who were demonized and who were sick. When He was ready to depart to the other side of the sea, a scribe came and wanted to be His disciple. He may have changed his mind, however, when learning the Lord was going to spend that night on the street! Another disciple of His came to Him, apparently wanting to back off on being a disciple. We will conclude our consideration of this man today in Matthew 8.

III. The Commitment of a Disciple. Matthew 8:18-22.

A. Verse 21. First = *proton*, of first importance. He considered burying his father more important than following the Lord! “Bury” does not necessarily mean he was dead or dying. He claims responsibility for his father’s business. If his father was literally dead, he would have been buried immediately according to current customs, and then all would gather to mourn for several weeks. By then the Lord would have moved on and the pressure to follow Him would be off. In his mind, he would never be free to follow the Lord.

B. Verse 22. Let them go and do this, as will be natural for them. Literally “let the dead bury their own corpses.” A symbolic and literal meaning of death combined here.

IV. Calming the Storm. Matthew 8:23-27.

A. Verse 23. He embarked or stepped into the boat. Only used elsewhere of stepping into the pool of Bethesda.

B. Verse 24. A terrible storm arises.

1. Tempest = *seismon*, an earthquake, so translated everywhere else. An earthquake can cause tremendous waves. Not the same word, nor the same event as in Mark 4:37 and Luke 8:23: *lailaps*, a windstorm. These were different events, this before the twelve were called, that after.

2. The water covered, *kalupto*, the boat. This ship had a deck. Yet in Mark 4:37 and Luke 8:23, the ship was filled with water, an open boat without a deck.

3. Asleep is *katheudo*, to fall asleep purposefully. He planned this nap. Never used as a figure for death, though it is used as a figure for purposeful laxity.

C. Verse 25. They were concerned with their bodies being destroyed, but remember the Lord’s words in Matthew 10:28!

D. Verse 26. Rebuking the disciples and the storm.

1. Note that it is the disciples only who are five times called “little faith ones.”

They had faith, but not as much as they should have had! Did they not realize that nothing could happen to a ship when the Lord Jesus Christ was in it?

2. “Arose” is the same word as when they awoke Him: He roused Himself.

Bullinger notes that here He rebuked the disciples first and the storm afterwards, whereas in Mark and Luke He did the opposite, the danger being more imminent.

3. There were winds accompanying this earthquake. Things take a long time to calm down after an earthquake. Yet He calms them in an instant!

E. Verse 27. Compare this to the Lord's own marveling back in verse 10! What sort of Man is this? Our answer: this is the God-Man, Who spoke creation, the wind and the sea, into existence.

V. Two Demon-Possessed Men. Matthew 8:28-34.

A. Verse 28. Bullinger: Prob. Gergashites, so called from one of the original Canaanite nations (Gen. 10.16; 15.21; Deut. 7.1, Josh. 3:10; 24.11. 1 Chron. 1.14. Neh. 9.9). Not Gadarenes, as in Mark and Luke. Two possessed men, Greek "demonized," as in 4:24. Notice the clear difference between this and Mark 5:1-20 and Luke 8:25-40: there, there was only one man! That record has their name, "Legion," their bonds, the man is used later by the Lord to testify; none of that is here. This was before the call of the twelve, there after. Fierce is Greek *chalepos*, only twice in the New Testament, the other in II Timothy 3:1, "perilous" times will come.

VI. Conclusion: Some asked to be His disciples, but showed they were not actually ready to make a real commitment to discipleship. Will we put Him first before all other responsibilities in life? This is the kind of commitment that God desires. The Lord was powerfully able to calm a storm at sea, since He is God in human form and the Creator of the wind and waves. Do we believe this of Him? Or do we view Him as just a man? Let us realize that this is the God-Man, God in human form. That is the truth, and that should be our faith. Let us believe!