

We Learn Lessons in the Storms

Mark 4:35 – 5:1, Mark 6:45 – 53

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In these two passages from the Gospel of Mark there are two crossings of the Lake, the Sea of Galilee.

In both cases Jesus directed His disciples to cross the lake. Mark 4:35, Mark 6:45

Both times, there was strong opposition to their doing what Jesus told them to do.

The first time there was a severe storm and the boat was filling with water. Mark 4:37

The second time a strong head wind prevented them from getting more than half way over the lake. Mark 6:48

Both times Jesus left them on their own, to do the work of obedience to His direction.

The first time He was asleep and had to be woken up. Mark 4:38

The second time He sent them off on their own across the lake. Mark 6:45

In both cases they had acted in obedience to Jesus, and therefore they had His authority to do what He told them to do.

In the first case, they woke Jesus up and He rebuked the storm and there was a great calm. Mark 4:39, 40

He also rebuked the disciples, “Why are you fearful, how is it that you have no faith?” Mark 4:40

He had directed them to cross the lake, and so they had His authority to do so. He expected them to use the authority He had given to them to over-come the opposition.

The second time, when they were held up by the head wind, when He walked over the lake He was going to walk on past them Mark 6:48, and leave them there, because He wanted them to realise, that they had to use His authority to overcome the storms of life, when they were acting in obedience to His direction.

However, they called out in fear and He went to their aid again. Mark 6:49, 50, 51.

How great is Jesus’ mercy and compassion and tender grace to us all the time.

We are very slow to learn the lessons that Jesus wants us to learn, but He is patient, kind, tender, compassionate, and forgiving.

We are all being directed by the Holy Spirit to step out in obedience to the will of God the Father and the Lord Jesus.

John 14:26, 1John 2:27, Psalm 32:8, Proverbs 3:5, 6. As we step out in obedience to God, we are in His authority to do so.

Immediately, as soon as we step out to act in obedience to God, we are thrust into a storm of opposition from satan, to try and stop us doing God’s will and extend the Kingdom of God. Matthew 13:21, Mark 4:17

Once we are sure of God’s will for us, it is up to us to overcome the opposition of satan by using our God given authority.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, bind the spirits of satan, the works of satan, the powers of satan and the captivities of satan, which have all been rendered powerless by the Lord Jesus Christ, and command them to loose you and the obedient action you are doing, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16:18, 19, Matthew 18:18, Hebrews 2:14, 15, 1John 3:8, Colossians 2:15, Ephesians 4:8

After that, pray for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on your work of service to the Lord, to enable you to complete the work in His authority and power, and pray for the Lord to provide for every need you have.

Luke 11:13, Philippians 4:19, Zechariah 4:6, 2Corinthians 3:5, 6, Mark 11:24

In the 1970s, the Lord directed us to give up earning a living, and travel into Northland, New Zealand, to help to establish a lot of new Churches, God was establishing.

One of the storms we went through was the financial storm of no money. As a family of six, (Dorothy and I and our four children), we put the bills, we could not pay, in the middle of the table, laid our hands upon them and prayed for the money to be released. By midday the next day all the bills were paid. Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee. James 4:7.

Over-come the storms, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Luke 10:19, 1Corinthians 15:57, 2Corinthians 2:14.