



INTRO.

The Sea of Galilee...

- ❖ As much as 8 miles wide / 12 miles long.
- ❖ 700 ft below sea level. Up to 200 ft deep.
- ❖ Surrounded by mountains and hills that are thousands of feet above sea level.
- ❖ Creates a wind tunnel = "sudden dramatic changes" in weather patterns.
- ❖ The disciples grew up on this lake and made their careers on it. Experienced!

Disciples find themselves in a storm not of their choosing... not a mistake...but it was a direct conversation result of obeying Jesus' direction. v35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."

But to get to that other side... they had to go through a storm. Following Jesus will lead us through storms.

The other side represents the fulfillment of God's will, purpose assignment he's given us: Sharing our faith, Marriage, Parenting, career, area of ministry.

And the storm represents the challenges we face externally/ internally.

FOCUS. Jesus shows us how to face these storms so that our faith doesn't wither rather grows stronger.

FIRST- JESUS TAKES A NAP.

38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.

One way to look at Jesus is that he doesn't care; Or he's just not worried about it.

Jesus is resting... giving us an example. When going through a storm the temptation is always to try harder and grit it out.

Jesus offers us another option... to REST... to quiet ourselves... to be still.

Isa 30:15 This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. (ESV)
... "returning" = "repentance"

Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God." Sleeping is another level!

SECONDLY JESUS HELPS THE DISCIPLES TO REFOCUS.

40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

This is a push to REFOCUS where their attention is.

When we face a challenge it's easy to let the problem consume our attention.

Focusing on the problem gets us FEARFUL, anxious, defensive... it's all on us.

When we get focused on the storm we forget who's in our boat

When we get fixated on the problem we lose sight of the Presence.

Jesus is physically in the boat yet they lose sight of 3 things:

- That he cares their problem
- That he is bigger than their problem.
- He promised to get them to the other side.

Focusing on Jesus grows our FAITH. Phil 4:13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength..

THIRDLY JESUS RENEWS THEIR FAITH.

41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Psalm 107:29 He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.

Psalm 89:9 You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them.

Psalm 93:4 Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea— the Lord on high is mighty...

The disciples fear moves from the storm to Jesus... why?

Genesis 3:9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

This is the first mention of fear in the Bible... not a monster... a storm... GOD.

Not a good fear... its a fear that comes from sin... shame... separation.

This is THE STORM... Jesus came to rescue us from. The FEAR we carry toward Him.

On the Cross Jesus will enter the eye of this storm and absorb that shame.

So that all who TRUST in HIM... will be saved.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love