

Luke 8:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.

Analysis

Jesus initiates a test: 'Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake' (Greek 'Dielthōmen eis to peran tēs limnēs'). The directive 'let us go over' (dielthōmen—let us pass through) indicates Jesus's intentional plan. He initiates the journey knowing storm approaches. This isn't reckless leadership but purposeful training. The Sea of Galilee was prone to sudden violent storms. Reformed theology observes that God sometimes leads into trials to strengthen faith. James 1:2-4 urges 'count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.' The disciples' coming fear and Jesus's peaceful sleep would provide crucial lessons.

Historical Context

The Sea of Galilee (called 'lake' here—limnē) sits 700 feet below sea level, surrounded by hills. Cool air from Mediterranean descends suddenly through gaps, creating violent storms on warmer lake water. Experienced fishermen among disciples (Peter, Andrew, James, John) knew these dangers. Jesus's command to cross necessitated trust. Ancient boats were wooden fishing vessels, approximately 25-30 feet long, powered by oars and small sails. For early church facing persecution, this account taught that following Jesus doesn't guarantee smooth sailing but does guarantee His presence and ultimate safety.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's intentional leading into the storm challenge expectations of smooth Christian living?
2. What does it mean that Jesus initiates journeys He knows will include trials?
3. How should awareness that God permits trials for faith-strengthening affect our response to difficulties?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	Ἐγένετο	ἐν	μῇ	τῶν	ἡμερῶν	Καὶ	αὐτούς	ἐνέβη
And	it came to pass	on	G1520	G3588	day	And	his	he went
G2532	G1096	G1722			G2250	G2532	G846	G1684
εἰς	πλοῖον	Καὶ	οἱ	μαθηταὶ	αὐτούς	Καὶ	εἶπεν	πρὸς
into	a ship	And	G3588	disciples	his	And	he said	unto
G1519	G4143	G2532		G3101	G846	G2532	G2036	G4314
αὐτούς	Διέλθωμεν	εἰς	τὸ	πέραν	τῆς	λίμνης	Καὶ	
his	Let us go over	into	G3588	the other side	G3588	of the lake	And	
G846	G1330	G1519		G4008		G3041	G2532	
ἀνήχθησαν								
they launched forth								
G321								

Additional Cross-References

Mark 8:13 (Parallel theme): And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side.

Mark 6:45 (Parallel theme): And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

Luke 5:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

Luke 8:23 (Parallel theme): But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy.

Mark 5:21 (Parallel theme): And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.

Matthew 14:22 (Parallel theme): And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

John 6:1 (Parallel theme): After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias.