

# Luke 8:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

## Analysis

**And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.** The disciples' urgent cry "Master, master" (Epistata, epistata, Ἐπιστάτα, ἐπιστάτα) uses Luke's characteristic term for Jesus as authoritative teacher and commander. Their desperate "we perish" (apollumetha, ἀπολλύμεθα) employs present tense, conveying immediate conviction of death—not future possibility but present reality.

Jesus' response demonstrates sovereign authority: "he rebuked" (epetimēsen, ἐπετίμησεν) the same verb used for commanding demons (Luke 4:35, 39, 41), suggesting personal agency behind natural forces. The wind and "raging" water (klydōni, κλύδωνι—tumultuous waves) respond to His command as subjects obey their master. "They ceased" (epausanto, ἐπαύσαντο) indicates immediate cessation, and "there was a calm" (galēnē, γαλήνη) describes supernatural tranquility impossible in natural weather patterns.

This miracle echoes Psalm 107:28-30 where Yahweh calms storms at sailors' cry, applying divine prerogatives to Jesus. Only the Creator controls creation (Job 38:8-11). By commanding nature's fundamental forces, Jesus reveals His identity as God incarnate, fulfilling prophecies of divine intervention and establishing credentials as the promised Messiah who exercises Yahweh's own authority.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Mediterranean cultures viewed the sea as chaotic, unpredictable, and threatening. Babylonian creation myths portrayed gods battling chaotic sea monsters (Tiamat). Greek mythology featured Poseidon's volatile control of waters. For Jewish audiences, God's mastery over seas demonstrated His supremacy (Genesis 1:2, Exodus 14-15, Job 38:8-11, Psalm 89:9, 107:23-32).

Old Testament prophets described Yahweh's power to still storms and waves as proof of His deity. When Jesus exercised identical authority, He implicitly claimed divine identity—a claim His disciples would gradually comprehend. The miracle's eyewitnesses included experienced fishermen who had weathered countless storms. Their astonishment indicates this event transcended natural explanation.

First-century Jewish expectations of Messiah included demonstration of supernatural power, but typically focused on political deliverance and miraculous provision. Jesus' nature miracles expanded messianic understanding, revealing the Messiah as Lord over physical creation itself. This episode occurred during Jesus' Galilean ministry (approximately 28-29 AD), part of His systematic revelation of divine identity through teaching, healing, exorcisms, and nature miracles that built toward Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does Jesus' authority over nature reveal about His identity and power?

2. How do we reconcile God's sovereignty with our responsibility to pray in crises?
3. Why does Jesus sometimes calm our storms immediately and other times let them rage?
4. What parallels exist between physical storms and spiritual/emotional turmoil in our lives?
5. How should this miracle shape our confidence when praying about seemingly impossible situations?

## Interlinear Text

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προσελθόντες δὲ διήγειραν αὐτὸν λέγοντες ἐπιστάτα  
 they came to him And and awoke him saying Master  
 G4334 G1161 G1326 G846 G3004 G1988  
 ἐπιστάτα ἀπολλύμεθα ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς ἐπετίμησεν τῷ  
 Master we perish And he arose and rebuked G3588 G1161 G1453 G2008 G3588  
 G1988 G622 G3588 G2830 G5204 G2532 G3973  
 ἀνέμω καὶ τῷ κλύδωνι τοῦ ὄνδατος· καὶ ἐπαύσαντο  
 the wind and the raging of the water and they ceased  
 G417 G2532 G3588 G2830 G5204 G2532 G3973  
 καὶ ἐγένετο γαλήνη  
 and there was a calm  
 G2532 G1096 G1055

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 4:39** (Parallel theme): And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.

**Luke 5:5** (Parallel theme): And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

**Psalms 65:7** (Parallel theme): Which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people.

**Nahum 1:4** (Parallel theme): He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth.

**Jeremiah 5:22** (Parallel theme): Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?

**Matthew 14:30** (Parallel theme): But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.