

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

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

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

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

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	G3588	And	he arose	and rebuked	G3588	
G1988	G622		G1161	G1453	G2008		
ἀνέμῳ	καὶ	τῷ	κλύδωνι	τοῦ	ὑδατος·	καὶ	ἐπαύσαντο
the wind	and	G3588	the raging	G3588	of the water	and	they ceased
G417	G2532		G2830		G5204	G2532	G3973
καὶ	ἐγένετο	γαλήνη					
and	there was	a calm					
G2532	G1096	G1055					

Additional Cross-References

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.

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