

Matthew 8:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Analysis

Jesus' rebuke 'Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?' comes before the miracle, challenging the disciples' faith deficit despite His presence. The phrase 'Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea' shows Jesus' creative authority—He commands nature like the Creator. The result: 'there was a great calm'—not gradual, but immediate and complete. This demonstrates His deity, for 'who can command even winds and water?' (Luke 8:25).

Historical Context

Sudden storms on Galilee were common due to surrounding hills. The disciples were experienced fishermen, so their terror indicates a genuinely life-threatening storm. Jesus sleeping in the storm shows His full humanity (exhaustion) and divine peace (confidence in the Father's care).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' authority over nature strengthen your faith during life's storms?
2. What does Jesus' question about your 'little faith' reveal about areas of unbelief?

Interlinear Text

καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς Τί δειλοί ἐστε ὀλιγόπιστοι τότε
And he saith unto them Why fearful are ye O ye of little faith Then
G2532 G3004 G846 G5101 G1169 G2075 G3640 G5119

ἐγερθεὶς ἐπετίμησεν τοῖς ἀνέμοις καὶ τῇ θαλάσῃ καὶ
he arose and rebuked the winds And the sea And
G1453 G2008 G3588 G417 G2532 G3588 G2281 G2532

ἐγένετο γαλήνη μεγάλη
there was calm a great
G1096 G1055 G3173

Additional Cross-References

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

Psalms 89:9 (Parallel theme): Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.

Matthew 6:30 (Faith): Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Romans 4:20 (Faith): He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

Matthew 16:8 (Faith): Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

