

Church of God Sunday School

JESUS CALMS THE STORMS

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:36-41; 6:45-51; Luke 8:22-25; John 6:14-21

After teaching and healing in Capernaum (*kuh-PUHR-nee-uhm*), Jesus and His disciples entered into a ship to cross the Sea of Galilee (*GAL-uh-lee*). A terrible storm came up. It was such a bad storm that the waves were washing over the sides of the ship. The disciples surely bailed the water out of the ship as fast as they could, but it still continued to flow over the sides of the ship!

Through this fierce storm, Jesus was in the "hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow." (The hinder part, or stern, of a ship is at the back. It is the pilot's place.) Finally, the disciples came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Lord, save us: we perish."

Jesus asked them, "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace, be still." The wind stopped blowing, and there was a great calm over the water. The disciples said among themselves, "What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him."

There was another time when the disciples were at sea and a storm came up. After the miracle of feeding a multitude of more than five thousand people, Jesus told His disciples to get into a ship and sail to another city while He sent the people away. After that, Jesus went up into a mountain to pray.

While the disciples were crossing the sea, a great wind began to blow. The disciples struggled to row against the fierce, blowing wind and the tossing waves. They were tossed first one way and then another, but they rowed hard with their oars to keep the ship from capsizing, or being turned over.

About the fourth watch of the night (from three a.m. to six a.m.), Jesus came to the disciples, walking on the water! The disciples thought that Jesus was a

ghostlike spirit! They were afraid! Immediately, Jesus said, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

As soon as Jesus told them who He was, they were comforted and assured of being safe. Jesus came into the ship, and the wind ceased. The disciples were amazed. (Had they forgotten the recent miracle of the loaves and fish?) And when they had received Jesus into the ship, immediately the ship was at the land.

Jesus can be everywhere through the Holy Spirit. But while Jesus was on the earth, in an earthly body like ours, He could only be in one place at a time, just as we can only be in one place at a time. Even then, Jesus always knew what was happening everywhere, regardless of where He was.

In the first storm Jesus was with the disciples, but the disciples tried to handle the ship and fight the stormy waves in their own strength first. They did not do very well. Then they asked for Jesus' help.

In the second storm, Jesus was not with His disciples; they could not see Him or talk to Him about the storm. But even though Jesus was on the mountain, He knew about the storm on the sea. Jesus knew that the disciples needed Him,

so He went to them, walking on top of the water, right through the storm. When the disciples saw that it was Jesus who was with them, they knew that everything would be all right.

We all have seen natural storms, but there are stormy times in our lives also: stormy times that come to the inner (spiritual) man. Inner (spiritual) storms cause our souls to feel turmoil, a state of unrest.

Spiritual storms come when sin tries to work in our lives or when we feel things coming against us that we cannot handle. These are times when we need to call on Jesus to rescue us. Jesus knows about every storm that



will come into our lives. Jesus wants us to ask Him to calm the storms so that we can have victory over them.

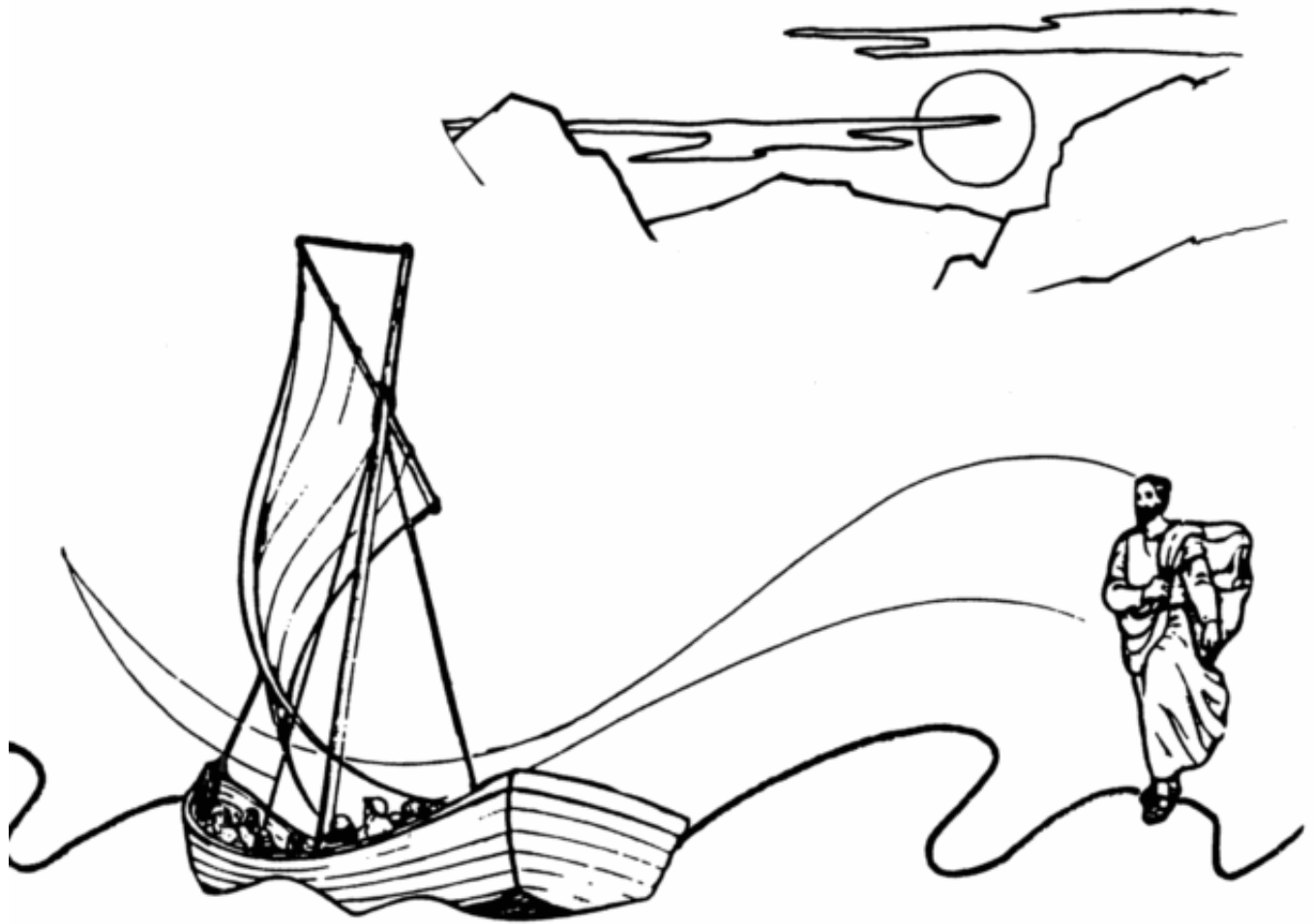
Our place of safety in the storms of life is Jesus. He is our Savior. He came to earth as a man and lived here and died on the Cross for our sins so that He could be our place of safety—but we have to humbly ask for His forgiveness of our sins and trust Him first. Then, whenever the storms of life come to us, we can call on Him. We can know that Jesus will be there, listening to our prayers, and He will help us.

From time to time on the "sea" of life, *your* little "ship" may get tossed about because of inner storms that come to you. Have you asked the Lord Jesus to forgive you and live in *your* heart so that He can help *you* when these storms come?

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."*  
—Psalm 46:1





## Unscramble the Words From the Story

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Sphi \_\_\_\_\_

Wvaes \_\_\_\_\_

Smort \_\_\_\_\_

Wrate \_\_\_\_\_

Pcaee \_\_\_\_\_

Kgin \_\_\_\_\_

