

THE OTHER SIDE

“He gave commandment to depart unto the other side” (Matt. 8:18)

- Fact # 1 - Jesus commanded his disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake.
- Fact # 2 - Jesus fell asleep in the boat.
- Fact # 3 - A storm came up, and the boat was being filled with water..
- Fact # 4 - The disciples awakened Jesus and told Him they were perishing.
- Fact # 5 - Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves and there was a calm.
- Fact # 6 - Jesus asked His disciples where their faith was.
- Fact # 7 - The disciples wondered at the power of Jesus.

There is something both simple and profound about this story. Jesus commanded that His disciples cross over to the other side of the lake, but in the course of their journey they encountered a storm. This raging storm revealed doubts in His disciples. They obviously thought that Jesus had made a mistake and that they would be unable to make it to the other side of the lake. The boat was filling with water and they thought they were going to perish.

Take another look at the story. Jesus commanded them to go over to the other side of the lake and the disciples thought they couldn't do it. Something was seriously wrong with their faith! Not only did Jesus command them to go, He went along with them. As human beings we often make promises that we are not able to keep. We usually have good intentions, but lack knowledge of the future and the power to persevere. Jesus did not lack either knowledge or power.

Jesus is God. He cannot lie. What He promises He will do, and what He commands He makes possible. He knows the future and is never surprised by any circumstance. He does not need to raise His voice or swear on a stack of Bibles in order to be believed. His disciples ought to trust Him no matter what happens. No storm can keep His disciples from doing what He has commanded.

Jesus commanded them to go over to the other side of the lake, and He was with them in their journey. No army or coalition of earthly kings could have stopped them. No navy, ancient or modern, had sufficient power to keep Christ and His disciples from crossing that lake. No storm or phenomenon of nature had the strength or magnitude to prevent the completion of that divine mission. All the angels in heaven and all the demons in hell were impotent to keep Christ from His intended goal. Jesus announced that they were going over to the other side of the lake, and they did precisely what Jesus promised they would do.

Most of those disciples were seasoned fishermen who had crossed the lake many times before. They had already weathered many storms. This storm, however, was different. It was worse than anything they had ever experienced. The waves were so high that the boat was filling with water. Forgetting the words of Christ they concluded that they were not going to make it. They were like the ancient mariners described in Ps. 107:27, they staggered to and fro like drunken men and were at their wits end.

Fortunately, like the men in the Psalm, they turned to the Lord in their time of trouble. Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves and the sea became calm. Then He asked His disciples “Where is your faith?” They should have known better. They should not have been afraid. Jesus was God manifest in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16.) He had created the heavens and the earth (John 1:3,) and was upholding all things by the word of His power. There is no power in heaven or earth that can harm anyone who is with Jesus. God was with the disciples and they didn't realize it.

The rich young ruler came to Christ and asked: “Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” (Luke 18:18.) Jesus asked why he called Him “good.” No one is good, but God. (Luke 18:19.) The point is, did the rich young ruler understand that Jesus is God? The correct answer to this question is foundational to our salvation. This was also the crux of the matter involving Christ, the disciples and the storm. Did they really understand the true identity of the One who was with them in the boat?

If you know who Jesus is, and He is with you, you can be sure you will reach the other side!