



## Scotts Hill Baptist Church

JESUS EDITION - TOUGH QUESTIONS • WHERE IS YOUR FAITH? • LUKE 8:22-25 •

7/6/2025

### MAIN POINT

The most important thing about faith is not the quantity of your faith; it's the object of your faith. We all operate with faith on a daily basis but the tests, trials, and storms of life will make obvious where our faith is truly placed.

### INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**Do you enjoy mystery novels or films? Weekly crime dramas on television? Why or why not? If so, what are some of your favorites?**

**When you read or watch a mystery, do you try to solve the crime yourself before the story reveals the guilty party and how they went about committing the crime? Or do you prefer to let the story unfold and leave sorting out the details to the narrative itself?**

For some, few forms of entertainment exist more thrilling than a “whodunit” mystery story. Not only does a mystery offer a story to follow but also a challenge to the audience to put together the clues alongside the characters in the story. With perhaps a few exceptions, once exposed to a mystery narrative, such as on a short story or television show, the compulsion to engage in solving the crime proves too alluring to resist.

Luke's Gospel account possesses a similar pull with respect to the stories he collected and presented to his audience. The narrative challenges us to come alongside Luke to consider the factual nature of the things reported and taught about Jesus (Luke 1:1-4). With the story of Jesus' calming a storm, Luke put the reader on the spot to consider “who

then is this" that even the winds and the waves obey Him and have I placed my faith ultimately in the one who rebukes even creation itself.

## UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 8:22-24.

**What stands out to you the most about this scene?**

**When is a time that you have felt in danger for your life? What was that experience like?**

**What does the disciples' use of the title "Master" (v. 24) to refer to Jesus reveal what they believed about Him at this point?**

The title "Master" is one of reverence and respect; however, their esteem for Jesus did not seem to be high enough with regard to His mastery over creation. There is perhaps irony in the disciples' crying out, "Master, Master!" while at the same time fearing that storm would end their lives.

**What is odd about using the word rebuke (v. 24) with respect to the elements of nature, such as wind and waves? How does the event confirm Jesus' power and authority?**

Psalm 104:6-7 says, "You covered [the earth] with the deep as if it were a garment; the water stood above the mountains. At your rebuke the water fled; at the sound of your thunder they hurried away" (emphasis added). "Rebuke" communicates the idea of moral authority, and as shown above, is used in Psalm 104 to speak of God's authority over water from the onset of creation. The ability to speak to phenomena in creation, like wind and waves, with moral imperatives belongs exclusively to the Creator.

**Does Jesus' sleeping on a boat remind you of Jonah's sleeping on a boat (see Jonah 1:4-6)? What are some similarities between the two passages? What is fundamentally different about them?**

In Jonah 1, akin to Luke 8, we see a great wind and great storm that was threatening to the security of the boat and put everyone except one character into a panic, calling on a higher power to help. In both accounts the character of focus was sleeping in the midst of

a violent storm. In contrast to Luke 8, where Jesus was seeking to be faithful to God's mission for Him by getting into a boat, Jonah 1 depicts the prophet as using a boat to avoid God's mission (v. 3). Both characters play a key role in the stilling of the respective storms (v. 15).

**How can you relate to the desperation of the disciples in these verses? Where are you currently questioning Jesus' care for the things you are worried about?**

| ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ LUKE 8:25.

**How did Jesus' actions in this passage give further evidence that He was actually God?**

There is extensive Old Testament teaching that God is the One that even the winds and waves obey. This left the disciples—and Luke's readers—with little option but to recognize that the God of Israel who created all things was present in Jesus. In some ways, the disciples' question "Who then is this?" summarizes the entire point of Luke's Gospel, confronting the reader to come to terms with who Jesus claimed and demonstrated to be: the Creator God incarnate.

**How did Jesus challenge the disciples in verse 25 to reconsider their conceptions about who He is?**

By asking, "Where is your faith?" Jesus forced the disciples to recognize that their faith in Him was perhaps not as strong nor as informed as they thought. They were neither expressing confidence in His ability to calm the storm nor in His concern for their wellbeing, something that the resolution to this story would correct.

**How do examples of Jesus power over nature and all other things remind you that He has the power to calm the storms in your life? How are you encouraged by His listening to the plea of the disciples?**

## APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**How do we at times, like the disciples, lose sight of Jesus' power and compassion? In what ways does this passage serve as a source of**

**encouragement for us as those quick to forget our Master's omnipotent mercy?**

**What can you do today to build up your faith in Jesus for the next time you feel overwhelmed?**

**Who do you know that needs to be reminded that Jesus cares for the things they are worried about? How can you encourage them this week?**

**How does this passage further give good news for those outside the church about Jesus and how He cares for those who follow Him?**

## PRAYER

Close with a prayer thanking God for revealing Himself in Jesus as the omnipotent Creator who cares about His people. Ask Him to help your group to trust in Him even in times of crisis to provide in Jesus everything they need to be faithful.

## COMMENTARY

| LUKE 8:22-25

8:22-23. Luke omitted much of Jesus' ministry and gave precise dates and places for only a few events. His attention was on who Jesus is and what Jesus called for, not on everything Jesus did and said. Constantly ministering to the crowds, Jesus often found need for a time away. What better place than in an isolated boat, presumably on the Sea of Galilee near Capernaum? Time away can quickly turn to disaster. It did for the disciples in the form of a storm. Would they and their Messiah die in a squall on the lake? Panic set in, but not for Jesus. He slept on.

8:24. His desperate disciples awakened Jesus with the news they were drowning. He spoke not to the fearful disciples, but to the raging winds. They heard the word of Jesus and obeyed. Calm. Still. Clear skies. No rain. No danger. The God who could command the powers of the sea to swallow Jonah could also still the power of the seas to save his Son and the disciples. The God who could divide the Egyptian Sea and Jordan River to give his people freedom and land could also rebuke the storm to reveal his ultimate source of salvation.

Now a word for the disciples: "Where is your faith?" Certainly, their faith did not approach that of the centurion or the faith of the sinful woman with an alabaster jar of perfume.

Were they thorny soil where the Word of God was choked out by the cares and worries of life? Or would they listen to the Word of God?

How could Jesus question the faith of men who had followed him so faithfully throughout his ministry, men who had forsaken occupations, family, and security for the nomadic, homeless life of their Master?

8:25. Fear gripped the disciples, fear of the storm, but much more a reverent fear in the face of one who feared no storms. Who could this be (see 5:21; 7:20,49; 9:9)? Messiah! King! Savior! If nature obeys him, does anyone have equal power? Who would not obey such a one? But the one who obeys is the one who listens and knows and practices the Word. Who were these men called the Twelve? Jesus' question shows who they were. They were men marveling at someone they loved—someone they could not understand completely. They were men willing to follow this man to find out what he was up to, but not having a real clue as to the ultimate end they faced.

The disciples were men seeing Jesus' marvelous power at work in new ways every day—but men not expecting what was coming. They were men of strong character but men nonetheless. Times of crisis saw them reverting to the emotions of common humanity, ignoring and forgetting the power of the one they followed. Jesus looked to the day when danger would no longer bring fear but expectation of divine intervention. At this point, that day had not yet come. The disciples still tried to figure out exactly who Jesus was and where he was going. They tried to confront earthly peril and danger with earthly means. They let human fears rule their lives. Only crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and Pentecost would change that.