

June 13, 2021



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:

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Class Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Those who fear God most fear men least

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then Have nothing else to fear; Make you His service your delight, He'll make your wants His care. —Tate & Brady

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints!
There is no way to those who fear Him

(Ps 34:9 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 14, 1996)

New Series: Confident Hope

**UNIT 1: Jesus Teaches
About Faith**

NEXT WEEK

**Healed by Faith
(Matthew 9:18-26)**

Delivered from Fear Matt 8:23-27

Lesson Background and Introduction

Following the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7, which sets forth Jesus' authority in teaching, chapters 8-9 focuses largely on Jesus' miracles. These demonstrate his authority in actions as they consistently pointed to a power that could belong to God alone. Jesus' miracles demonstrated that promised future. His enemies attributed his ability to satanic powers (Matthew 12:24) and mocked him (27:42). Still, Jesus made salvation possible by giving of his life. His resulting resurrection was his greatest act of power. But as we begin today's text, that is yet a year or so in the future. What do you fear? Typically, the things that make us most afraid are those that threaten us in some way because we can't control them. Instead of praying first, we first try our best to gain control. But in the end we recognize that our control is very limited. Disease stalks even those who eat right and exercise. Financial crises strike even the prudent. Accidents happen to the careful. Our protective reach cannot constantly extend as far as those we love. There is a far superior alternative to trying to maintain control over our circumstances first and, when that fails, turning to the Lord. The alternative is to reverse those priorities. Because Jesus gave His life for us, we can surely trust Him to do for us what He did for 12 men of little faith in a small boat, and more. The created world is filled with mortal dangers. Our reaction should be that of the psalmist: Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence (Psalm 91:1-3).

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Calming the Storm - "Do not fear" was one of Jesus' frequent sayings. He repeated it to His followers many times and taught them lessons about being courageous. Some of those were real life lessons, like the time He overruled nature and calmed a storm. Jesus and His 12 disciples boarded a boat in Capernaum, then He laid down and went to sleep. The men ventured out into the Sea of Galilee, typically known for sudden storms, and soon the waves from a storm threatened to capsize the boat. These experienced fishermen were alarmed and afraid, but they forgot two critical things. One, the original Maker of the wind and the rain lay sleeping in their craft. And two, He said to His disciples at the beginning of the trip, let us go to the other side of the sea. He mentioned nothing about the entire crew drowning. When Jesus is present—all is well.

The Response of Jesus - The panic-stricken disciples woke up Jesus; they called out to Him to rescue them. The disciples considered the situation utterly hopeless. Imagine the Savior's calm demeanor. He spoke one sentence; the sea calmed down. The men stood amazed. Here was this ordinary man exercising extraordinary power. They turned to each other asking, "Who is this? Who can this be?" Perhaps they later remembered the Scripture: "O LORD God of hosts, who is a strong LORD like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them" (Ps. 89:8-9, KJV). "He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still" (Ps. 107:29).

The Important Question - When confronting a rough time, the important question to ask is, who's in your boat? Who is taking this life's journey with you? What is God telling you? Do you have "little faith" like the disciples in this passage? That usually means a failure to hear Jesus' voice. Great faith is not mustering something up. No, it's just the opposite. Great faith means to get quiet and listen to the Lord. He speaks through the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and other Christians. When traveling through the storms of life, there is no need to be afraid when Jesus is in your boat. It's a quiet time to experience His peace within.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Jesus' Answer to Fears (Matt 8:23-27)

Follow Jesus (23)

- Following Jesus represents the right priorities in life (Matt 16:24-26)
- Following Jesus represents safety in the presence of Jesus (John 12:26)
- Following Jesus assures eternal victory (John 10:27-28)
- Following Jesus means realizing that Jesus is the only way (John 6:67-68)

Know storms in life will come (24)

- God wants us to see storms as opportunities for growth (Genesis 35:10)
- God knows that storms will come, but He wants us to depend on Him who made all things (John 1:3-5)
- Storms are opportunities to have faith in God (Acts 27:22-25)

Call on Jesus (25)

- Call on Jesus for mercy and believe He has power to do all things (Matt 9:27-28)
- Call on Jesus because there is no difference in person with Him (Rom 10:12)
- Call on Jesus out of a pure heart (2 Tim 2:22)
- God is forgiving and good to all who call to Him (Ps 86:5)
- God is near to all who call on Him (Ps 145:18)
- Call to God for insight and understanding (Prov 2:3-5)

Faith dispels fear (26)

- Faith in the strength of God dispels fear (Isaiah 41:10)
- Jesus gives a peace that is beyond anything in the world (John 14:27)
- God gives us a spirit of power not fear (2 Tim. 1:7)
- The love of God drives out fear (1 John 4:18)

Jesus has the power to bring calm (27)

- The calmness of God transcends all understanding (Phil 4:7)
- There is calmness that comes out of being in godly unity (Phil 2:1-2)
- Never worry, trust in God and He will deliver and He will provide calm (Matt 6:31-33)