

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

26 October 2025

Where is Your Faith?

Text: "He said to them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! For he commanded even the winds and water, and they obeyed him." *Luke 8:25*

Jesus allowed his disciples to encounter a fear-provoking circumstance on the Sea of Galilee to teach them a great lesson.

As they sailed over the lake, they found themselves confronted with a dangerous situation, a storm had come down the mountainside and across the lake, making sailing impossible.

Because he was weary from the burdens of the day, Jesus was asleep in the front of the boat.

The waves began to fill the boat with water, and it appeared that it was in danger of sinking at any moment.

The fear of the disciples became such that they awakened Jesus, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"

In response, Jesus rebuked the storm.

He also addressed the storms in the hearts of his disciples with rebuke and encouragement.

In Luke's account he simply asked, "Where is your faith?"

There are two great lessons to be learned here.

Faith does not prevent the storms of life.

We must be clear about the purpose of Jesus' question.

He was not holding his disciples responsible for the storm.

He was holding them responsible for their response to the storm.

They had given in to a very human fear: they were afraid they were going to die.

This brings up an interesting question.

Who was responsible for the storm that beset the disciples?

Scholars are not agreed about this specific incident, but there are only two possibilities.

The enemy causes storms.

Some believe that Satan was actually responsible for this storm.

They remind us that he is the "prince of the power of the air" and interpret this to be an open attempt on the lives of Jesus and his disciples.

What we know about the Devil would incline us to believe this.

We do know that he makes life as difficult as possible for those who are committed to God.

Remember the experience of Job?

The Enemy can stir up storms around your life.

Your faith in God will not prevent these attacks but may actually attract them.

So when the storms come, you are not to conclude that your faith has failed, but rather that it is being tried.

The Lord may also stir up some storms.

No storm ever comes against us without divine permission.

Even the Enemy works within limitations imposed by the loving will of God.

But when the Lord God allows us to confront a fear-provoking circumstance, it is not a sign that our faith has failed.

Jesus does not say, "Where is your faith?" because the storms come.

You cannot prevent the storms by faith, but you can prevent them from destroying you.

Your faith may not be able to keep you from having to face an economic storm, a vocational storm, a physical storm, a spiritual storm, or even a marital storm, but faith does make a difference in how you deal with the storm.

Faith does prevent fear.

The great lesson we are to learn here is that faith does prevent fear.

The disciples were frightened by the threatening circumstances, but they should not have been.

This prompted Jesus to ask, "Where is your faith?"

If faith had filled their hearts, things would have been different.

Fear is a sign of a failure of faith.

What happened to this group of disciples was a very natural thing.

Any ordinary human being would have been frightened by the storm and the danger of sinking to the bottom of the Sea of Galilee.

However, this little group of men was not supposed to act as just natural men.

They knew Jesus Christ and, in fact, had him on board the ship.

They should have been able to go through such a storm unruffled by fear.

Every one of us has known fear in some form at one time or another.

It may have been the fear of losing a job.

It may have been the fear of rejection by someone important to us.

But Jesus lay the blame for fear squarely on our lack of faith.

The fear does not come from the circumstances but rather comes from within us.

Many of us are quite successful at hiding our fears for a while.

We hide them behind empty words of confidence.

But sooner or later they will surface.

They may surface in health problems or emotional problems, but they will surface.

Fear is caused by the failure of faith.

The faith that prevents fear rests in Jesus.

Jesus wanted his disciples to depend on him in this dangerous circumstance.

He was calling attention to his adequacy to handle whatever situation may arise.

We desperately need to learn that our faith must rest in him and not in our own abilities.

Faith is resting in the person of Christ.

Did these disciples not know who he was?

He had given them many indications of his identity.

Did they really think that the Son of God would be swallowed up in a little storm on the Sea of Galilee?

We know Jesus Christ.

But do we really know who he is?

Have we committed ourselves to one who cannot handle the crises of life that come to us?

Indeed, he is the Lord of history, the living God.

He is able to subdue all things to himself.

Faith relies on who he is.

Faith is resting in the promise of Christ.

The disciples missed it.

When Jesus said, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake," his command was his promise.

What he commands he enables.

They should have understood that it was his responsibility to get them to the other side.

Why fear?

He will do what he has said he will do.

Faith makes much of God's promises, but fear forgets them.

Faith is resting on the performance of Christ.

Up to this point the disciples had not faced a situation in which Jesus was not the Master.

Did this not encourage them to believe that all was well now?

We have such an advantage over them.

We have three books that remind us of his performance.

We have the Bible, the complete revelation of his faithfulness and sufficiency.

Oh, how the reading of the Bible encourages faith!
We also have Christian history.
The last two thousand years have been filled with testimonies concerning the faithfulness and adequacy of Christ.
And finally, we have the book of our own experience.
Are you living by your fears or by your faith?
Many of us are dominated by our fears.
Jesus asks you. "Where is your faith?"
With that question he is offering you an invitation to cast all your cares on him for he cares for you.
Won't you do that right now?
More completely each day.
And leave them there for Him to deal with.
Since you cannot adequately deal with them anyway, why not give them to Jesus?
He is the only one able to handle them in the first place.
And as you give them to him you see that he is able and your faith grows more and more as you trust him and see that He does what he says he will do.
Trust and obey for there is no other way, really!