

Title: Jesus' Miraculous Calm

Text: Luke 8:22-25

Date: September 13, 2026

Proverbs 4:9 tells us that *"if we embrace God's wisdom as having high value, then it will be to us like a graceful garland and a beautiful crown."* So, if you have your copy of God's word with you this morning, I hope you do, please turn to Luke, yes, Luke 8. We are going to continue on in our study of this remarkable book, one of only four gospels that are contained in the New Testament.

If you recall, this letter is written by Luke, the first century doctor and companion of the apostle Paul. And Luke in the first century writes this letter to a man named Theophilus, as we learned from the opening verses of this letter. And Luke writes this in order to give Theophilus greater confidence in the historicity of the Christian faith that he had been taught. And so, Luke, during his travels throughout the known world alongside Paul, pulls together a collection of carefully confirmed firsthand eyewitness testimonies regarding the life and the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

And again, Luke does this so that Theophilus and those of us who come after him could have confidence in knowing what are the true doctrines and teachings of Christianity and what are not. Because let's be honest, there's a lot of ideas circling around in our world today that call themselves Christian but are nothing more than late human or ecclesiastical inventions foreign to the New Testament that people have tried to tack on to the person of Jesus centuries and sometimes even a millennia afterwards. Listen, that's not Christianity. What's Christianity is that which can be directly connected to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, that which is laid out in the gospels and explained in the New Testament.

And so that's what Luke is doing here. He is laying out in grand classical form a carefully researched, thematically organized historical account of Jesus of Nazareth, his life, and teachings, one that we will see over time, slowly unveils, and confirms the reality that Jesus is the Christ. He is the promised Messiah, the saving sovereign of all. And in that journey, we are currently in Luke 8. In the first half of Jesus's public ministry, where Luke has been presenting a series of accounts that repeatedly emphasize the importance of listening carefully to Jesus's words. Just as verse 18 of chapter 8 said, *"Take care then how you hear."* Not just that you hear, but how you hear.

For example, back in chapter 6:46-49, Jesus gave a parable that contrasted two disciples, a wise and a foolish one. And the difference between the two of them, all depended on how they listened to the words of Christ, whether they listened carefully to obey or not. And then in chapter 8:4-15, Jesus taught another parable, this time contrasting four types of people, four human hearts. And what's interesting is all four individuals in Jesus's parable hear the word of God, but only one of them actually bears fruit. He is the individual who received the word of God with an honest and good heart, who listened carefully. And this is what Jesus has been teaching his disciples repeatedly, be careful how you hear.

And now, as we'll see this morning, Jesus sends his disciples a time of testing their way, to test the validity of their faith, and to reveal whether they've truly been listening carefully to Christ's word all along or not. And it is in light of this passage that we're going to be able to examine ourselves this morning as well. Do you and I trust in Christ as he really is? Do we even know what it looks like to trust in Christ? And can we identify the times in our lives when we are failing miserably? That's what we're going to consider this morning in Luke 8:22-25.

And we're going to consider it through just four very simple steps this morning. First, we're going to see the simple crossing that's described in verses 22 through the beginning of verse 23. And then at the end of verse 23, into the beginning of verse 24, we're going to see the sudden chaos that erupts upon the disciples during that simple crossing. And then verse 24, we're going to experience the supernatural command that Christ unleashes into the face of the chaos that has arisen. And then in verse 25, we're going to finish with the significant questions that arise after Christ's command. So, the simple crossing, sudden chaos, supernatural command, and significant questions, all of which reveal to us today Jesus' miraculous calm, a miraculous calm that he alone possesses and passes on to all those who trust in him truly.

And so, with that in mind, if you're able, please stand with me out of honor and attention for the word of God as I get to read our passage before us this morning from Luke 8:22-25. Our author, the Dr. Luke, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, writes these words for us this morning:

"One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger. And they went and woke him, saying, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?'"

This is the word of God who teaches us his rules that we may not be turned aside.

Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for your word this morning that reveals to us the glory of your Son, Jesus Christ. Father, we thank you that when we enter into chaos in this world, there is someone who is above this world, who possesses supernatural calm and control over all things. And Father, as we who are in this world and experience the storms of life, I pray this morning that you would open our eyes to behold the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we would be marked in the midst of this world with a supernatural calm that can only be explained through Jesus. Father, I pray that you would equip us by your Spirit through your word this morning, to be the type of people who have a peace that passes all understanding as our hearts and our minds are guarded and guided in Christ Jesus.

Work within us, Father, we pray, for the honor and glory of our great Lord and Savior, we ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

You may be seated.

So, our story begins on a day in Christ's life, a day like any other day. And that's what we're going to see in verse 22 and the beginning of verse 23, where we read about a very simple crossing. We read, *"One day he got into a boat with his disciples and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep."* Notice how Luke begins here. He says, *"One day he got into a boat with his disciples."* Now Mark 4:35 tells us that that unnamed day here in Luke was actually the day that Jesus got done delivering the parable of the soils. That was a very busy day.

If you remember, the crowds had been so great on the day of that teaching that Jesus had to climb into a boat and push offshore just to be able to teach them as they were crowding around him. Well, after Jesus gets done teaching his disciples the parable of the soil and the lamp, and after being exhausted from a long day of ministry, we read at the end of verse 22, *"he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.'"* That is Lake Genesareth, it's the Sea of Galilee, which is really just a freshwater lake that's fed by the Jordan River. And so, after this full day of work, Jesus is wiped out and he says, let's get out of here. If we go across the lake, it will buy us some much-needed rest. Now Jesus also had a divine appointment waiting for him on the other side of the lake as we'll learn about next week. We don't know to what degree Jesus and his humanity knew about that divine calendar, but nevertheless, in perfect harmony with it, he tells his disciples to head across the lake, it is time for him to rest.

Brothers and sisters, this is not the point of my sermon, but I want to remind you that resting is a very good and human activity. We live in a world today that wants to deny the creatureliness of us as humans. We don't know everything, so let's create Google and AI who can be our brain for us, right? Like we can't keep on going throughout the day, so let's invite coffee and Mountain Dew to solve that problem, right? And then we just want to control everything to push out of our lives these reminders that in fact, we are very finite creatures who cannot do everything all the time. And that is why ever since the beginning of creation, God created everything in six days, and on the seventh day, he did what? Rested as an example for all of us who come after him.

Brothers and sisters, I want to remind you that it is very important to rest. Very important to rest. It acknowledges God's lordship over you by resting. And Jesus, as a man, demonstrates that here. He was tired, what did he do? He rested. He rested. End of verse 22, and it says, *"So they set out, and as they sailed he fell asleep."* Now as someone who has recently experienced what overwhelming fatigue feels like I appreciate this verse more than ever. Because it is yet another reminder that Jesus really does understand. And he gets it. He's like those men, I don't know if you've ever seen them, the businessmen that get on airplanes, and the moment the plane hits and takes off of the runway, they are dead out. They're asleep already. These are like the dads that the moment they sit down on a lazy boy, they're asleep for all of Sunday afternoon, right. This is Jesus.

The moment he gets on that boat, he lays down, and what happens? He falls asleep. All the women here this morning are saying, if only Mary had been there to wake him up. But anyway, Jesus is just exhausted. Exhausted, and so I picture the scene. The disciples are weighing anchor. They're hoisting the sails. They're engaged in all this busy activity, and after they finally get the rigging and everything ready for the journey, they finally turn around, and there lays Jesus sound asleep on the cushion at the back of the boat. It's a wonderful thought, the thought of Jesus sleeping, of Jesus being exhausted, and I can't even imagine the exhaustion he felt.

There have been some days where I've preached only about three hours tops. There have been days when I put in 14-hour days with people, and I'm ready to call the morgue after those days. Can you imagine preaching fervently all day to crowds that are constantly pressing in around you, second by second, and then after pushing through one day, you wake up the next day, and it happens over and over and over again? Friends, Jesus is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. Just as Hebrews 4:15 says, he knows what exhaustion feels like. In his humanity, he was made like us in every respect, yet without sin, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest. When we are whipped at the end of the day, we can turn to Jesus and say, thank you, Jesus, for making me the way I am, and thank you for understanding what I'm going through right now. It's awesome. Jesus understands exhaustion, and that's why Jesus says, let's get out of here, and he immediately falls asleep.

Well, anyway, I want you to notice, up until this point, though, nothing unusual has happened this day. It's a pretty ordinary day. Jesus and his disciples would often get into boats and go across to various parts of the sea, and that's why Luke here in this account simply says that this happened one day. This is just another one of those days, another simple crossing. But all of that would change very, very quickly, just like it often does in our lives as well. One moment, it's life as usual. The next moment, it is life upside down.

And that's what we're going to see at the end of verse 23 and into verse 24, where Luke tells us that this simple crossing is suddenly interrupted by a sudden chaos. It says, *"And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger."* Very actual danger. *"And they went to him and woke him, saying, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!'"* So as this little fleet of boats are crossing the lake, suddenly a windstorm sweeps down from the mountain regions and comes upon the Sea of Galilee. That word, windstorm, is a very descriptive word talking about a tempest, a swirling hurricane of wind and rain. And I use the word hurricane on purpose because the Sea of Galilee is unique among all places on earth.

It is studied, in fact, by meteorologists worldwide because of the unique geographical features of that region, factors that often create sudden violent torrential storms over the lake with hurricane-forced winds, especially during the winter seasons. Well, this was one of those storms, only far worse, because the word here for windstorm includes not only the impression of a hurricane, but also of an earthquake, of a boiling unrest that's stirring up from below. See, waves swept by the hurricane winds on the Sea of Galilee sometimes have been observed to reach heights of 10 feet or more. This storm was bigger.

Matthew 8 tells us that waves were coming up so high that they were covering the boat, looming over it, and Mark 4 says they were crashing down upon the boat, filling it with water. So, what's being described here is just a tumultuous picture of nature's unbridled wrath, to such an extent that these disciples, who are professional fishermen, I want to remind you, who had lived and worked on this lake for decades, were facing something the likes of which they have never seen before in their entire lives. It was so overwhelming that these experienced fishermen knew exactly not only what was about to happen, they knew exactly what was already happening in that moment.

Notice, he says, *"Master, Master, we are,"* what, *"perishing!"* That lets you know, by the way, that all of those awesome paintings created during the Renaissance never do justice to this moment by a long shot. You'll often see these quaint pictures like I have up here depicting one disciple holding onto the ropes of the ship with a strong arm, another rowing heroically, a third poised like Washington crossing the Delaware at the bow of the boat, and a fourth disciple, you know, gently tapping Jesus's shoulder as if to say, I really had to bother you, but I thought you'd like to know that we're in the middle of a storm right now. That is not the picture that scripture gives at all. The disciples are perishing.

I want you to picture a disciple holding onto a rope for dear life as the winds whip him around like a rag doll over the waters. I want you to picture a disciple who's already overboard, clinging desperately to an oar, gasping for breath before another wave takes him under. I want you to picture a disciple clamoring up the masts of the boat like a drowned rat trying to stay above the crashing waves. That is, if the mast is still standing. This is an existential crisis being described. They were in danger, and they were perishing. In the span of an hour, these disciples had gone from experiencing just another simple crossing to sudden existential crisis and chaos. And in the midst of that furious chaos, as they're going under, as they're looking around for anything to save them at all, suddenly they look to the back of the boat and there's Jesus still asleep on the cushion.

And this is an important point I want you to see that in the midst of the chaos, Jesus is not the first thing that disciples turn to, is it? It is the last. They only turn to Jesus when, as every other of the gospel accounts show, when they're at the point of perishing, when all their sailing skills had failed, when they literally had nowhere else to turn. I wonder how long they told themselves, we've got this under control, when they clearly didn't. I wonder how long we tell ourselves that, I've got this under control, when you clearly don't. How long did it take for you last time to turn to Christ when a furious squall was breaking on your deck? How long did you tell yourself; I've got this under control? Maybe some of you are here this morning dealing with pressures and trials and heartaches of life and every moment of your life up to this point, you've been telling yourself, I've got this under control, when you clearly don't. I would encourage you that Jesus should be the first person you turn to in the issues of life, not the last. Because Jesus is the only one who is Lord over the storms.

So, we see here that these disciples do exercise faith, but it's a minuscule faith at that, and only when they're backed into a corner with nowhere else to turn. And as they're going down, they finally turn to Jesus. I can imagine Jesus awakening to the chaos of the sights and the sounds, everything's a frothing tumult, water's everywhere, the disciples are shaking him, crying out in a panic, and all of these voices

saying, Lord, help, save us, we're dying, teacher, don't you care if we drown, *"Master, master, we're perishing!"* Just absolute desperation as they're brought to the end of their perceived self-sufficiency. Were they any weaker at that moment than they were at the beginning? No, they were that weak all along, weren't they? It took the trial to expose how weak they were all along. And that's why God sends them. You don't need Jesus just when the storms strike. You need Jesus right now.

So, we've seen the simple crossing, the sudden chaos, finally, we see the supernatural command in verse 24. It says, *"And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm."* I feel like this story has been sanitized too much because we've heard it ever since we were in Sunday school. It's not a problem, that's just the reality. It's a wonderful story, we've heard it so many times. But can you imagine seeing a storm of hurricane-like force suddenly ceasing in a moment? That blows my mind, and yet it actually happened.

This is one of those firsthand eyewitnesses, carefully confirmed accounts that Luke gathered together to share, it's shared by Matthew and Mark as well. And he tells us here that Jesus wakes up and he rebukes the wind and the raging waves, and both of them, the wind and the waves, ceased. And there was a calm, it says a great calm, as the other gospels mention. Do you understand how shocking that would have been? Like the flipping of a light switch, you go from instant chaos to instant calm. Storm gone, waves gone, wind gone in a moment, that doesn't just happen, folks. Why on Lake Michigan, where I grew up, if a storm went through, it would take hours upon hours after the storm disappeared for the waves to fully settle down. Here it goes from complete pandemonium to complete peace in an instant, the simple words of Jesus, peace be still, just like that. Jesus didn't pull out a wizard staff like Saruman, right, and recite a 30 second incantation to the storm clouds.

He just rebukes them like a parent who has been inconveniently woken out of sleep. Settle down. I've yelled that many times from my bed. Peace be still. Should try that next time and see what happens. And hearing their creator's voice, they obey in an instant. Jesus brings a supernatural calm to the sudden chaos by the sheer power of his word, from a frenzied sea to a mirror of glass in an instant. The impersonal, unbridled forces of this universe obey Jesus better than my toddlers do, me. And how does he do that? He does it by rebuking the winds and the waves. Have you ever thought about that? Did Jesus have to speak to winds that couldn't hear him? Did he have to speak to waves that have no ears? No. So why then did Jesus speak? Not so that the wind and the waves could hear him, but so that the disciples who were with him could hear who was addressing them and bringing them to peace.

Jesus could have just willed for the storm to cease, and it would have ceased. But Jesus speaks as an expression of his will, as he always has ever since creation. He speaks for those who can hear, so that the disciples would know that it is he who brings the calm and that commands the storm. That is why Jesus possesses a word unlike any other. He possesses an almighty, omnipotent, divinely powerful word. And we've only seen a word with power like this one other time. Genesis 1:3, God said, *"Let there be light," and there was light.* Jesus says peace be still and it was still. Who else has words of power, order, and peace like this? Who else? And that's exactly what we're going to consider next.

This miraculous event instantly raises some very important questions concerning the person of Christ, which is the point of this entire parable, the heart of this passage in verse 25, where we see the significant questions. Verse 25, it says, *"He said to them, 'Where is your faith? And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?'"* Look at the disciples' question first. Verse 25, it says, *"And they were afraid, and they marveled, saying to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even winds and water, and they obey him?'"* It is no surprise that they asked this question.

As Jews, they would have known the Old Testament scriptures very well, that the quieting of a raging sea is a supreme indication of the presence and power of Yahweh, God of the Old Testament. Psalms 89:8-9 says, *"O Lord God of hosts, who is as mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you? You rule over the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them."* Only Yahweh, God of hosts can do this. Only God himself can calm the sea. And here emerges from the stern of this boat, Jesus. He stands up and everything becomes a glassy calm. Who then is this? Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity. This is Jesus *"who alone stills the roaring of the seas,"* as Psalm 65:7 says, *"and the roaring of their waves."* This is the Lord. This is God the Son in human flesh. This is remarkable.

Psalms 121:3-4 tells us, *"He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."* And now here emerges this God man from the back of the boat, fully God and fully man. He who does not slumber or sleeps awakens to show these disciples that even when you think Jesus is asleep on the job, he never is. Ever, ever, ever. *"He who keeps you will not slumber. He will never let your foot be moved."* You can trust in Christ for your soul and for your eternity. And so, Luke tells us that the disciples marveled, and they were afraid.

I can't help but thinking that the disciples had in their minds Psalms 107. It's so familiar to me. We read it this morning. I'm sure it was very more familiar for them. The psalmist writes in verses 23-31, *"Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters."* What does that sound like? Sounds like some fishermen in our story. *"They saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end."* Sounds like the disciples, doesn't it? *"And then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed."* Who does that sound like? Jesus. What a reminder that the so-called laws of nature are simply Jesus's laws.

The words of his power by which he upholds the universe and by which he can suspend at any given moment for the power of delivering his people. Even the most chaotic moments of our lives are ruled over perfectly by Christ. Do you believe this? Be still my soul. The waves and winds still know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below. And so, Luke tells us that these disciples were afraid now but no longer of the storm. They were afraid of the person in their boat. If he commands the winds and the waves and even they obey him, who in the world is this guy? Maybe we should be listening a little bit more closely to what he has to say.

And that's exactly the realization Jesus wants them to have because look at his question that he gives at the beginning of verse 25 in conclusion. *"He says to them, 'Where is your,'"* what, *"faith."* That's a legitimate question I'd say. They had been there when the centurion's servant had been healed. They had been there when the widow of Nain's son had been risen from the dead by the command of Christ. They had been there when all of those crowds had been healed of their diseases. They had been there through it all hearing Jesus's teaching that a wise man builds his life upon Christ.

That he must listen carefully to all of his words and Jesus asked them after it all, so where is your faith right now? Where is it? Examine yourself. Is it in me or is it in something else? How long did you tell yourself you had this under control? How long did you try everything else under the sun before you came to me? Why did it take you to the point of death before you finally turned and looked to me? Where's your faith? It's a good question for us to ask this morning. Where is your faith? We all trust in something to get us through the storms of life, don't we? I mean, we are going through storms.

You are either in a storm, coming out of a storm, or about to go into one. We all trust in something. So, what are you trusting in? Where is your faith? Are you telling yourself right now to the neglect of prayer, are you telling yourself right now to the neglect of studying scripture, are you telling yourself right now to the neglect of seeking godly counsel and wisdom I've got this under control? Is Christ the first place that you're turning to or the last? In the midst of stress, anxiety, fear, or discouragement, where are you turning to first? So, life has been hard, right. You just had a terrible week last week. You finally made it through Friday, living for the weekend, right. Saturday morning dawns. I can finally recover from this past week.

What are you doing Saturday morning? Where did you turn? Finally go shopping. Finally go hunting. I can finally go on that run. Finally watch that TV show. Finally take those drugs. Finally open that bottle. Finally look at that thing that I shouldn't be looking at. Where do you turn in moments like that? When stress mounts, the anxiety site ceases, the fear arises, the darkness strikes where do you turn for calm and rest? Do you exhaust all other possibilities first? Well, I guess I could pray and read the Bible because nothing else is working. Or do you turn to the Prince of Peace when the storms of life erupt on you and turn to the calmer seas through prayer and his peaceful word and turn to Jesus on Saturday morning for the rest and the strength that you need from a hard day of work? Where's your faith? This morning you might say, I don't really know.

Well, that's why God sends storms. See, it is only after the storm erupted upon their everyday life that these disciples could discern just how closely they had been listening to Christ or not. And the conclusion was they hadn't been listening very well. They hadn't been trusting very well at all. And so, Christ sends storms to show his people where they stood in the faith department, to show them how much more they need to trust in him. That's why God sends storms. He not only stills them, but he sends them. Where did Jesus tell his disciples to go? Go into the lake. He not only stills storms, he sends them to create and cultivate on us a greater faith. And so, I want to just cause you to think about that this morning.

First, the purpose of trials is to create faith. You say, but pastor, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ, not by trials, and that is true. But sometimes the only way that someone will actually listen

to the word of Christ and the message of the gospel, and the saving power of Jesus Christ is when they're back into a corner with nowhere else to turn. When they realize that they only have one choice before them, believe or perish, that's when they'll listen, just like these disciples. See, we often think of faith as us pursuing God, but that's not what we see in this account at all. This story is not an account of man's pursuit of God. This is a story of God's pursuit of man. God desires faith and he will stop at nothing to produce it in the lives of his children. Even if that means bringing to the point of perishing so that you will at last look to Jesus, call upon him, and be saved.

I'd encourage you this morning that if you have not trusted in Jesus Christ, there is a purpose to the trials you're going through, and that is for you to bend the knee this morning to your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who alone can save you from perishing. God sends trials to create faith. Second, to cultivate faith. Sometimes storms come into our lives not because we didn't have faith before, but because it was time for our faith to grow. I make this point so that none of us are thinking this morning, oh no, I'm going through a hard time right now does that mean I'm not a believer. Does that mean I don't have faith? Well, no, it simply means that it's time for your faith to grow. No one would ever look at Job and say that he didn't have faith before his trial. It was just time for his faith to grow. And that's a comfort for all of us as believers, when storms and various trials come, as James 1:2-4 says, because we know that it is for the perfecting, the cultivating, and the growing of our faith.

Maybe you're going through a hard time right now and you are recognizing, you know what, I am turning to so many other things other than Christ. My faith is weak. Okay, praise God, you recognize it. Don't beat yourself up about it now. Turn to Jesus. Turn to Jesus and trust in him. And that's what this passage is teaching. Trials come so that we would become more reflexive in resting in Jesus's power. So that we would come to trust in him who has the power over storms and who alone can speak peace. Sometimes into our circumstances, but always into our hearts. So that Jesus's miraculous calm can become our miraculous calm as we grow to trust in him.

And those of you who have gone through any trials in life, I know that you can give assent to what I've just described this morning. Thinking of the months that I've just come out of, there were many, many times when I was brought to the absolute end of myself. And in those moments, I look back and I considered it a great blessing because I was brought to the point of finally saying, I have nowhere else to, the medical profession has failed, everything around me has failed, Jesus is the only one I can look to. Shame on me. Jesus is the first person I should have looked to. And yet in those moments when I recognize the weakness of my faith, guess what happens? I let my reasonableness be known to all. The Lord was at hand, and I did not let myself be anxious about anything, but through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, I made my request be made known unto God and the peace of God, which passes all understandings, guarded my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.

Jesus gave me a perfect calm when the trial finally humbled myself to turn to Christ and Christ alone. And I want that for you as well. This is Jesus. This is Jesus. He is God, the God who sends the storms, the God who stills the storms, and the God who shelters us through the storms. This is Jesus and he can be thoroughly trusted. He has a miraculous calm that he passes on to those who trust in him.

So, as we're about to leave this morning and push back out into the sea of life, we need to ask ourselves the question this morning, where is my faith? When I face the storms of life, am I still thinking I've got this under control? Am I turning to my own strength, my own wisdom, my own abilities, my own ideas, my own training or am I turning to my Savior? In the midst of stress and family circumstances, anxiety and various trials, where am I turning to first? I want to remind you as your pastor, you have nowhere else to turn but Christ alone. So, turn to him first, not last. Turn to him for salvation, turn to him for strength.

As I said last week, take time to sing, take time to pray, and take time to meditate on what he has to say. With him in your boat, Jesus is ready and able to emerge in the midst of all your storms and to speak peace to his people and to your troubling circumstances and to your troubled heart for his glory and for our good.

This is the word of God from Luke 8:22-25, which I consider a great privilege to be able to share with you today, and which I now commit to your further study and your faithful obedience until Christ, who is our peace, returns for his own.

To that end, let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for Jesus, who is our Prince of Peace. Father, I thank you that he is the one who speaks peace to his people, that he is the one who gives us a peace that passes all understanding. I thank you, Father, that he is the one who leaves his peace with us. So Father, I pray that as we live in the midst of a world that is seemingly increasingly growing more and more chaotic every day on a global scale, and then as we even draw near to our own personal lives and we see the circumstances of life that often rise up suddenly that we have to face, Father, I pray that we would keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus. Father, we thank you that he himself is our peace. There is no greater storm that we have ever faced in our lives than the wrath of God reserved for our sins. And yet Jesus Christ came to this earth to die on the cross and to make peace on our behalf, to take the penalty of our sins upon himself and to establish eternal life on behalf of all those who trust in him. Father, he is the one who makes peace. We know this eternally. Father, help us to know it in the here and now, that he has not left us, but he is in our boat. Father, help us to turn to him first, not last. Father, I just ask that this week as I prayed last week, help us to set aside time to sing, to pray, and to meditate on the words of him who has eternal life. May we be marked by the very miraculous calm of Jesus as we enter into the sea of life this week.

For your honor and for your glory, we ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

Available online at: <https://gracechapelwl.org>