

“O Ye of Little Faith”

Matt. 8:23-27

Introduction

- I. The Gospel accounts reveal different events in the life of Jesus.
- II. We are privileged to be able to study what happened during those events.
- III. Many times, the lessons that Jesus taught His disciples have great meaning for us as well.
- IV. Let us examine some of those times in this study

Discussion

- I. Matthew 8:23-27
 - A. A storm arose while Jesus and His disciples were in a boat crossing the sea.
 - B. Fear and dread began to consume the disciples, but Jesus remained peaceful and at ease.
 - C. Cries went out for Jesus to “save” them from death (cf. Mark 4:38; Luke 8:24).
 - D. While showing trust that Jesus could “save” them, the disciples should have never gotten so fearful with Jesus amongst them.
 - E. Jesus takes the opportunity to rebuke them, and simultaneously teaches them a great lesson (Heb. 11:6; 1 John 4:18; cf. Phil. 4:6-7).
- II. Matthew 14:22-33
 - A. After the feeding of about five thousand men, Jesus sent His disciples ahead of Him while He went to pray.
 - B. Another storm arose, and during the “fourth watch” of the night, Jesus goes to them, “walking on the sea”.
 - C. The disciples were “troubled” because they believed Jesus to be a “spirit”/ghost.
 - D. Jesus identifies Himself, and thus attempts to calm His disciples.
 - E. Notice the doubt in Peter, but still a degree of faith that unfortunately wavered.
 - F. Again, Jesus takes an opportunity to rebuke, but also to help strengthen faith (cf. John 21:15-18).
- III. Matthew 16:5-12
 - A. This time, Jesus teaches His disciples to “beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees”.
 - B. Sometimes our faith can waver because we do not recall the times before that God has blessed us.
 - C. This was an opportunity to warn against the false teachings of the day (2 Tim. 4:1-4; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; cf. John 4:31-34).
- IV. Matthew 17:14-21
 - A. On this occasion, the disciples lack of faith caused them not to be able to help the afflicted son.
 - B. These were some of the same disciples that would one day have “miraculous faith” that could move mountains (1 Cor. 13:2).
 - C. This was an opportunity to encourage them to have a stronger faith.

Conclusion

- I. How strong is our faith?
- II. Do we need rebuking and encouragement to grow our faith?