

Luke 8: Weather or Not

🔗 **Luke 8:22-25** We come to one of the more well-known stories in the Bible. This is a story of one of Jesus' greatest demonstration of His power. Power over Satan, demons, illness, death, fish in a net, power to forgive, and now power over nature. The One who has come to reverse all that sin has done including its effect on the weather, is showing Himself to His disciples and to us.

1. Sleepy Jesus

- ✓ Jesus had taught all and was exhausted. Jesus is God, but He is also fully human and after an entire day of teaching and preaching, He was very tired!
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2. A very Stormy Sea

- ✓ The Sea of Galilee is no real sea, but actually a freshwater lake. The Sea of Galilee is only 13 miles long, 8 miles wide, and 41K surface acres. It's not its size, but its situation that makes this lake so treacherous.
 - ✓ It's the lowest freshwater lake on the planet at 680 feet below sea level. Add to that, the fact that it is surrounded by high ground on almost every side.
 - ✓ To the east is Galilee, which is a series of lower mountains that rise to a little over 1500 feet above sea level, but more than 2000 feet above the lake's surface.
 - ✓ To the west is famous Golan Heights, basically a plateau that is right at 3000 feet or 3600 feet above the lake's surface.
 - ✓ To the north just 40 miles away, is the highest peak in Israel, Mt. Hermon at 9500 feet, and it is the lower end of the Mountains of Lebanon that sore over 10K feet and are snow-capped year-round.
 - ✓ To the west is the Mediterranean just 45 miles away, with warm moist air and ocean winds. To the east is the Saudi Arabian desert just 40 miles away with hot, dry air, and scirocco winds.
 - ✓ To the north just 40 miles away, begins the snow-capped peaks of Lebanon with very cold, very heavy air that seeks out the lowest places.
 - ✓ Any one of these three can fill the Sea with roaring waves, but when they combine, it can be turned into a treacherous body of water.
 - ✓ It usually happens in the dark and when there are clear skies and no thunder to warn you, these winds collide and from three directions, they throw up conflicting waves which crash into each other, with very short periods between the waves, which means that though the waves may only be 10 feet, they are almost vertical when they hit a boat.
 - ✓ These elements demand your respect on this little Sea, but nothing like what is demanded by the One who created it and controls it.
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3. Jesus' Calmness

- ✓ Jesus is fully man; therefore, He was really tired, but He is also fully God and knew this storm was coming. Jesus can deal with the storm because He has allowed the storm for His purposes.
- ✓ He knew He had no concern because He is sovereign; He calmly sleeps the sleep of omnipotence. God is perfectly calm; there is nothing outside of His power and control. It's the very same reason why we are frantic.

4. The Weather's Calmness

- ✓ He has to be awakened by frantic disciples; He needs no preparation. Chaos everywhere; pandemonium everywhere; sailors appealing to a carpenter to get them out of the waves. "He rebuked the wind and waves." He speaks to them like you would speak to a child!
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5. Scary Calmness

- ✓ It says it was instantly calm; wind can come and go pretty fast, but waves generally take a while to stop rocking. In a matter of a few seconds, it all went calm.
- ✓ They have seen numerous miracles, but this is the first time that a miracle has involved them quite so personally. It's harder to be objective when it is your life at stake.
- ✓ The word "fearful" here is the Greek for panic or traumatized with terror. The only thing scarier than a life-threatening storm outside your boat is to have the One who created it and still it inside your boat!
