

Daily Bread with Brother Hwa-Chi (Not reviewed by the speaker, for personal use only)

Luke 8: 22-25

Brothers and sisters, peace be with you, this is Hwa-Chi. Thank the Lord, it's time to read the bible again. Today, we will continue reading Luke chapter 8, verses 22 to 25.

From chapter 8, verse 22 to the end, a total of four miracles are recorded, and they come in two pairs. From verses 22 to 39, it records that Jesus got on a boat from the west side of the Sea of Galilee, probably near Capernaum, intending to go to the east side of the lake. On the east side there was a place called Gerasa, or Gadara, where there was a man possessed by demons, and Jesus was going there to cast out the demons; during their crossing of the Sea of Galilee, certain things happened. Through these events, the disciples came to recognize who Jesus really was. So crossing the Sea of Galilee to Gerasa to cast out demons actually involves two miracles performed by Jesus in one single event.

Then from verses 40 to 56, it speaks of Jesus returning to Capernaum; at that very time, a synagogue ruler named Jairus had a little daughter who was sick and near death, and he asked Jesus to come and heal her. While Jesus was hurrying to Jairus's house, on the way He encountered a woman who had suffered from a flow of blood for twelve years, who touched Jesus and was healed. So these two miracles are actually one and the same event: what Jesus did on the way to Jairus's house to heal his daughter, and what He ultimately did in Jairus's house. Therefore, the four miracles are grouped in two sets of two.

Verse 22: "Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, 'Let us cross over to the other side of the lake.' And they launched out."

The place where they boarded the boat was on the west side of the Sea of Galilee, probably near Bethsaida; they were heading to the other side of the lake, that is, the east side, the region of Gerasa, and so they set out.

Verses 23-24a: "But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!'"

We can imagine the situation at that time: the Sea of Galilee is about more than 200 meters below sea level, in a very low-lying area, and winds often blow down from the high places on both sides into the lake. Therefore, the waves on the Sea of Galilee can change in an instant—one moment it is calm and peaceful, and the next moment a violent storm can arise. And among the disciples on the boat, many were fishermen who frequently fished on the Sea of Galilee, so they were very experienced sailors. We can imagine that when the storm came, they exerted all their efforts to control the boat. But it seemed that nothing they did worked; the boat was filling with water, and it looked extremely dangerous. When the disciples had used up all their own methods and found that nothing worked, they went to wake Jesus, and surely in urgent and desperate tones they said, Master, Master, we are about to perish, come quickly and save us!

We see something very special: in the midst of such a storm, boats on the Sea of Galilee were usually not very large, so they would rise and fall violently with the storm waves, extremely turbulent; yet Jesus was able to sleep very peacefully and restfully. Jesus was not awakened by the storm waves, but rather by the disciples' cry that they were about to perish. It was such a desperate cry that woke Him.

Many times in the storms of our lives, on one hand we have Jesus' word telling us to go to the other side of the lake, and on the other hand we have Jesus with us in the same boat. Jesus Christ is God; He speaks and it is done, He commands and it stands fast. Since He said the boat was to go to the other side of the lake, it would surely arrive safely. Although there may be storms in the process, although sometimes the boat may take in water, Jesus is in the boat, sleeping very peacefully.

And we, just like these disciples, hurriedly run to wake Jesus and desperately cry out, We are perishing! The training course Jesus gave to the disciples on the boat is actually a lesson that every one of us who follows the Lord must also learn.

Verse 24b: "Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm."

Jesus got up and immediately rebuked the wind and rebuked the waves; as a result, very remarkably, the wind and waves stopped, and the lake became calm. Wind and waves have no personality, but behind the wind and waves there are Satan and demons, who do have personality. Through the example in the following event, we can see that the water was full of unclean spirits. Perhaps these unclean spirits knew that Jesus was going to the other side of the lake to cast out demons, so they stirred up wind and waves on the path Jesus was taking. Yet throughout the entire process, Jesus was very calm and peaceful, even sleeping.

The inexperienced disciples lacked faith, so they hurriedly woke Jesus; after Jesus got up, the first thing He did was to still the wind and waves and calm the storm.

Verse 25a: "But He said to them, 'Where is your faith?'"

Jesus did not blame them for waking Him; just as many times when we are in urgency, we cry out to God and ask God for help. Actually, this is what Jesus wants to see, that we can bring all kinds of difficulties to Him. But what Jesus rebuked them for was: Where is your faith? Did I not tell you that we were going to the other side of the lake? Am I not in the same boat with you? It is fine to ask when something happens, but where is your faith? Jesus was not awakened by the storm waves; Jesus was awakened by the disciples' faithless cry.

Verse 25b: "And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, 'Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!'"

In the circumstances permitted by God, God will let us pass through many storms, and in the process of passing through these storms, it is only to teach us to recognize that He is Lord. As long as the Lord is in our boat and traveling with us, do not fear the storms, because once He commands the wind and water, the wind and water must obey Him. What is to be feared is if Jesus is possibly not in your boat.

I believe many saints have gone through many things, especially those experiences that are deeply engraved in your memory. Sometimes it even reaches a point where you have no faith and ask, God, where are You? We need to know that every saved saint has the Holy Spirit dwelling in our heart; with the Holy Spirit in our heart, Christ is with us. Many times it is not the external storms, but the storms inside our heart that are so great; the external environment does not touch you, yet the fear and uneasiness in your heart toward the environment make you unable to sleep at night and unable to concentrate during the day.

Know that in the boat of the storms in our heart, the Lord is forever with us. Although sometimes He sleeps, His sleeping is to let you experience prayer with faith. Especially when we look back later, how many great storms we have passed through, God has safely brought us through them all. He repeatedly proves to us: He is Lord over the circumstances, He is in our boat, He is with us. This also teaches us that in future storms of circumstances, our prayer to God is no longer Lord, save me, I am perishing; but rather, in the midst of circumstances, to boldly boast over the enemy, saying, Wind, waves, what are you? The Lord is with me; the Lord is Lord over wind and waves! This is the secret of victory for every Christian.

On one hand we have the Lord's promise that He will surely keep us to the other side of the lake; that is, one day when we cease from our earthly labors, we will surely arrive at the golden shore on the other side. With such a promise, and with Jesus Christ with us, what do we still fear? Although many times the path God wants

us to take will have Satan stirring up wind and waves—he is unwilling—but with God with us, what do we still fear?

Let us pray together: Lord, thank You. You are the Savior of our life; all the circumstances we must pass through in our lives, You have already arranged for us. We ask that in all kinds of circumstances, You clearly let us know: You are with us, You are right by our side. Also help us not to look at the severity of the circumstances, but to look at the Lord behind the circumstances; You are still sovereign, You are still with us, You are still the grace. Let us, through passing through these circumstances, know You more and have greater faith in You, so that ultimately we can arrive peacefully at the other side of the lake with You. Bless my life today, we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.