

Some Things to Think About

When Faith Begins

By Diana Mitchell, 3/26/2021, 8/24/2026

Matthew 8:24-27, Mark 4:38-41, and Luke 8:22-25. In regard to the disciples, who wanted to believe that Jesus was an earthly king who would war and win against mighty Rome ... these scriptures probably represent the first miracle that Jesus did that they couldn't attribute, in their hearts so to speak, to a magician's trick, or trickery of any kind.

They were on the sea with Jesus asleep in the boat, and that is when the impossible storm struck. Some people can sleep right through anything. Even a thunderstorm can't wake them; and, when they do wake up, they might have to be convinced that there was a storm going on all around them while they were asleep. That's how hard Jesus was sleeping. He was only doing what was normal after a hard day at work: He found a comfortable spot, and he went to sleep.

But why didn't the storm pop up when the disciples were on land, where the experienced fishermen in their group could read the sea and had enough common sense not to venture onto water that could become dangerous?

Consider this possible explanation as to why: The trajectory of their boat left no guesses as to where they were headed, and with Jesus in the boat, it left no reason as to why. Again, notice that the storm didn't pop up during a time when they were sure to avoid it, but when they could *see* that JESUS was silent[ly sleeping]. That is when the devil pounced on his opportunity to get rid of them all, when they could *see* the silence of Jesus. But notice this: They instinctively yelled for Jesus to wake up—as if something in them told them, this Jesus is God with you.

For the disciples, the significance of this miracle was that Jesus, a man, spoke to the wind and the waves, and they immediately obeyed his command to cease movement. That left no room for trickery. It was a turning point in how they viewed him. Who was this person who could speak to the wind and the sea, and they immediately obey his command? Only God could do such a thing (*see* Exodus chapters 13-15).

Matthew 8:24-27, Mark 4:38-41, and Luke 8:22-25 (and the verses that precede and follow) are a life-lesson on how to maneuver those violent, impossible, storms when it seems like God is silent, and this time, I'm/we're going under. The impossible pops up when we are comfortable. In those impossible situations remember you have direct access to God, and can yell for Jesus, too. This is when faith begins to solidify—when we remember, and instinctively yell for the God who does the impossible, Jesus, the God who tells the storm to cease, be still. My prayer is that we all get comfortable in the storm because Jesus was, and Jesus has given us direct access to God so that we can sleep during the storm, too, because we do what we see Jesus do, because Jesus did what he saw the Father do (*see* John 5:18-19, 8:28-29, and 12:49-50).