

“We Perish”

Matthew 8:24-27

Introduction: Have you ever come to a time in your life where you thought life was over (Matt. 8:24-27)? These Disciples said, "**WE PERISH!**" They thought they were going to die if the Lord didn't save them. Jesus' response was, "O ye of little faith?" That's a strange response. Didn't the Lord know the trouble they were in? Didn't he see they were about to perish? **Or did Jesus see something else?** Jesus saw something far more significant than bad weather! What Jesus saw was a lack of faith. I submit to you that we show this same lack of faith in our lives as the disciples showed in their lives.

I. This lack of faith could be called "doubt."

A. These disciples doubted they would live to see another day. Yet, they knew they had Jesus the Son of God with them. Should they have doubted that the Lord would take care of them? Yet, they did know that it was within Jesus' abilities to save them. They said to Jesus, "save us" (vs. 25). So they knew Jesus could save them, but they weren't sure if Jesus would save them. We call that doubt. Jesus said it was a lack of faith.

B. We see another follower of Jesus display this same doubt (Matt. 14:22-33). Here Jesus said that Peter's doubt showed his little faith. Should Peter have doubted? He saw all the miracles that Jesus had performed. Peter just watched Jesus walk on water. If Jesus said he could do the same, why did he doubt it would happen? Did Peter not trust in the Lord to keep his word? If Peter, an apostle of Christ is subject to doubt, do we from time to time doubt in Christ for no apparent reason?

C. Great men in our past have been subject to doubt.

1. Abraham doubted the Lord would provide him and Sarah safe passage through Egypt. So they lied about Sarah's identity saying she was Abram's sister instead of his wife (Gen. 12:12-13).

2. Sarah doubted that the Lord could give her a child in her old age (Gen. 18:12-14).

3. Moses doubted his abilities that the Lord gave him to bring the children of Israel out of Egypt (Ex. 3:11).

4. Moses doubted his ability to persuade the people and his ability to speak publicly though the Lord told him otherwise (Ex. 4:1, 10, 13).

5. Moses doubted God's ability to deliver the children of Israel from Egypt (Ex. 5:22-23).

6. Moses doubted Pharaoh would listen to him (Ex. 6:12).

7. The children of Israel doubted God would deliver them when they saw the Egyptians in pursuit (Ex. 14:10-15).

8. Moses doubted God would make good on his promise to feed the children of Israel in the wilderness (Num. 11:21-23).

9. Gideon doubted that God was even with them to deliver Israel from the Midianites (Judg. 6:12-15).

10. Others who doubted the Lord: Samuel (1 Sam. 16:1-2); David (1 Sam. 22:3-4); Obadiah (1 Kings 18:7-14); Elijah (1 Kings 19:13-18).

II. Doubt is a lack of belief.

A. We see doubt as a lack of belief in the Jews (John 10:24-27).

B. Those in attendance doubted the miracles performed by the apostles and its meaning on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:12).

C. Paul doubted the Galatians faithfulness to God's instructions (Gal. 4:20).

D. In the same way, when we say we doubt something, **we are saying we really don't believe it though we believe it is possible.**

III. Sometimes we doubt the Lord will save us as sinful as we are.

A. If we confess our sins, He will forgive (1 John 1:9). Should we doubt that God will do as he said? Or despite the obvious, do we persuade ourselves into disbelief as Peter did?

B. We can do so much if we wouldn't doubt (Matt. 21:21-22).

C. Instead of doubting, perhaps what we should seek and pray for comfort and reassurance. It seems when troubles and sin enter our lives doubt in ourselves or our abilities to handle the situation is not far behind (2 Cor. 1:3-7).

D. Simply put, God's Word is the cure for doubt (Rom. 15:4).

IV. Illustration: "Master the Tempest is Raging"

The author of this song was Mary Baker. She was asked by H. R. Palmer the composer of "Yield Not to Temptation" to help him compose some gospel songs. However, Mary didn't feel like it. She had just lost her brother. She wrote concerning her brother:

"A very dear and only brother, a young man of loveliness and promise of character, had been laid to rest in his grave, dying of the same disease that had already taken our mother and father. His death occurred under distressing circumstances because he was a thousand miles away from home, seeking the warmer airs of the South to help heal his condition. Suddenly, he grew worse, and I was too ill to go and be with him. For two weeks, we kept in touch by telegraph, until he passed from this earth. We mourned, not as those without hope, for I had

believed on Christ in early childhood and had always desired to give the master a consecrated and obedient life, but I had become wickedly rebellious."

Her brother's death had shaken Mary. In her grief she found doubt. By her own words she admits her lack of faith when she said she "had become wickedly rebellious." For a time she didn't trust in the Lord as she should have. It was during this experience that she penned the words to this song. Later she wrote, the Master "stilled the tempest in my heart and brought it to the calm of a deeper faith and a more perfect trust. Since then, I have come to feel a keen sense of gratitude for the sweet memories left of my departed brother, and know God's way is best."

Conclusion: "There is comfort in knowing that our Savior not only controls the forces of nature, but he can calm the troubled heart. Christ provides a place of refuge from the tempest of life, and a rest for the weary soul." [Robert J. Taylor, Jr.] Please keep these thoughts in mind as we sing the invitation song. If your faith has been shaken in doubt, let us help.