



## **"The Way"**

### **Session 3 (4) – Calming the Storm, The Sea of Galilee**

March 10, 2024

5:00 PM

This evening, we are going to focus on Jesus' ministry on the water, specifically around the Sea of Galilee. However, before we begin our time of study and discussion, I wanted to show you the video from Session 3 in Hamilton's study, titled "Proclaiming the Kingdom, The Mountains." This session specifically focuses on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, but since we just finished a month long study on this sermon, I thought we would pass over this session's focus. However, I did want you to see the video in the Holy Land of the possible location of Jesus' Sermon.

#### **Watch Session 3 Video – "Proclaiming the Kingdom"**

- What jumped out at you from what you saw in the video?

In this week's session, Hamilton includes three verses of what is sometimes called the Navy Hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." Let's allow it to be our opening prayer this evening.

#### **Opening Prayer – "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"**

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,  
Who bids the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word  
The winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walked upon the foaming deep,  
And calm amid the rage did sleep;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who did brood  
Upon the waters dark and rude,  
And bid their angry tumult cease,  
And give for wild confusion peace;  
O hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

Amen

### Session 3 (4) – A Look at the Sea of Galilee

As we look at the Sea of Galilee, one thing to know is that immediately to the East, there is a range of mountains. These mountains hold back the winds that come out of the eastern deserts. When the winds, unpredictable in intensity, duration, and timing, finally whip through some of the valleys that lead to the seashores, it can create some terrible storms on the Sea of Galilee. Something to know for our stories today.

- Why might fishing have been so important during the time of Christ?

While the people in this region raised sheep and goats, the meats of these animals were used for special occasions. What do you think was their primary source of protein? (Hint: They swim in the water...) Even today, the stalls and markets of Caesarea, the major city on the southwest corner of the Sea of Galilee, are filled to this day with every type of fish, still the staple food source in the region.

### Session 3 (4) Video – “Calming the Storm, The Sea of Galilee”

### Follow Up Questions...

- As you watched the video, what images or insights into the Sea of Galilee did you glean?
- Did you notice anything about the action of the water on the lake?
- In our faith journey, what does water represent?
- What are some prevailing images/stories of water in Scripture?

### Scripture Focus: Jesus' Calling of the Disciples

Let's Read Luke 5:1-11.

- How do you think Simon, a working fisherman, felt when this wandering rabbi got into his boat and told him to anchor offshore so he could talk to the crowd?
- In verse 8, why do you think Simon refers to himself as a sinful man, and why does he want Jesus to leave him? Is he frightened by the presence of Jesus?
- If you encountered Jesus, would you be frightened? Would you acknowledge yourself to be sinful?

### Scripture Focus: Jesus Calms the Storm

Let's Read Mark 4:35-41.

- What storms do you see in today's world and in your own life? What does it mean when we say that Jesus has dominion over them?
- Do the storms always disappear?

## Scripture Focus: Jesus Walks on Water

Let's Read Matthew 14:22-33.

- Why, after teaching and feeding the multitudes with loaves and fishes, did Jesus seek time alone with God in prayer?
- What were the apostles doing alone in the boat after dark? How would you feel if the boat were being battered by the waves in the black of night?
- Since there were probably no lights on board, it is surprising that as Jesus approached, the apostle thought they were seeing a ghost? How would you have felt in their place?
- What three things does Jesus say to them as he approached them during the storm?
- Why do you think Jesus said, "It is I," and didn't identify himself further?

Adam Hamilton writes that the story of the disciples' calling is the story of our calling, too, to "fish for people". We feel a nudge from God, and it won't leave us alone.

- What does the selection of fishermen as disciples tell us about whom Jesus is calling and why?
- What are some barriers in your own life that get in the way of following Jesus? What are some ways you could overcome those barriers?

Hamilton points out that the story of the wind and the waves shows that the disciples, though they had chosen to follow Jesus, still didn't fully grasp who he was.

- What does it mean to move from fear to faith? Is that always possible? Whether it is possible or not, what does God offer us?

### Wrap Up

While many of these stories are stories we remember from our childhood, they still speak truth to us today. We can trust and believe that Jesus comes to us in our need, calling us to serve Him; we can trust and believe that Jesus directs us to life abundant and life everlasting; and we can trust and believe that Jesus knows the storms of life that we encounter and that his peace can dissipate those storms. Or we can continue in doubt, anxiety, and fear.

### Closing Prayer

Let us close by spending a few moments in silent prayer and reflection, asking how is God “calling you” tonight. We will then close by speaking the following line followed by the Lord’s Prayer...

*Lord, as the man said to Jesus, so we say to you: “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”*

*Lord’s Prayer*

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Session 4 – Sinners, Outcasts, and the Poor

Sunday, March 17      4:00 PM

Chapter 5 in the Book

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