

A Great Calm

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. (Mark 4:39)

Remember this nursery rhyme? *Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream. Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream....*

I'm certain the rowing was anything but "gentle", and I wouldn't use the word "merrily" to describe the disciples at this point. There were usually more than 300 fishing boats on the Sea of Galilee at one time. Powered by oars and sails, this boat was large enough to hold Jesus and his 12 disciples. A fierce storm strikes over the mountains surrounding the Sea of Galilee. Waves are raging. They thrash against the boat so violently that water begins to fill the boat...their wooden safety net. The twelve disciples panicked. They were seasoned fishermen who knew these waters. This storm came unexpectedly. But, Jesus. He was in the boat. He climbed in the boat to rest. He had been preaching and healing the sick in Galilee. *The disciples woke him up shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" (Matthew 8:25).* Jesus knew this was coming. Of course he did. He is all knowing, ever present, and ever prepared. Jesus commands the turbulent waves to "be still". Done. *At your command, the water fled; at the sound of your thunder, it hurried away. (Psalm 104:7)* In an instant, a great calm.... a sudden stillness.... tranquility takes over.

Is there a storm of emotions brewing in you? Are the waves of fear and affliction rocking your boat? The disciples were human. Their security was in the boat itself, sinking. We too are human, unknowingly placing our confidence in the things of this world...and those things are sinking too. Storms come in unexpectedly, and the power within the storm is destructive. Destruction brings fear, sorrow, and darkness with it. We find ourselves in a state of gloom. Oh but friend, take hope and breathe. Thankfully, we have power in the name of Jesus. He is in our boat. Read that again. Jesus is in your boat. He, again, is all knowing, ever present, and ever prepared. Take comfort in that. Are we too consumed by sinking in our reality that we haven't lifted our eyes to the Great Healer?

JESUS. Our goal. Our purpose. Our reward. Didn't he come to rescue? That is his very mission...to seek and save the lost. The one that created the waves calms the waves. *...Even the winds and waves obey him. (Matthew 8:27)* So take heart. Claim victory in Jesus. Call upon his name. Right now. In an instant, a great calm.... a sudden stillness.... tranquility takes over.

*"Lord, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He led them from the darkness and deepest gloom; **he snapped their chains.** (Psalms 107:13-14)*

*There is power in the name of Jesus
There is power in the name of Jesus
There is power in the name of Jesus*

*To break every chain,
break every chain,
break every chain*

*There's an army rising up
There's an army rising up
There's an army rising up*

*To break every chain,
break every chain,*

break every chain

I hear the chains falling

I hear the chains falling

There's an army rising up! Indeed there is! That would be one army of believers...HIS church...rising with one mission: to worship our one true God. Worship changes everything. We are called...to burst forth, walking in his glory and reflecting his splendor. The God that offered the Great Calm came to let the chains fall.

<https://youtu.be/MDNIFzcqing>