

**Speaker:** Pastor Buster Brown

**Today's Message:** The Walk of Faith and the Boat Manifest

**Today's Text:** Matthew 8:23-27

**Matthew 12:29** *"Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house."*

**John 12: 31-32** *"Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."*

**Matthew 8: 23-27** *"And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him. <sup>24</sup> And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. <sup>25</sup> And they went and woke him, saying, 'Save us, Lord; we are perishing.' <sup>26</sup> And he said to them, 'Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?' Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. <sup>27</sup> And the men marveled, saying, 'What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?'"*

Satan was mortally wounded at the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is presently involved in a losing campaign of guerilla warfare. We live between the inaugurated kingdom of God and the realized kingdom of God (the new heavens and the new earth or D-day and VE-day).

#### **OBSERVATIONS from Matthew 8:23-27**

1. We can glory in the power of the living Christ from a distance, but it can be incredibly different when it is "up close and personal", i.e. a sudden storm that overwhelms some sea-weathered fishermen.
2. The growing realization of who Christ was as Sustainer, Healer and Eternal Creator, filled these men with a sense of marvel (Matt 8:27) and fear (Mark 4:41) and this fear was an emotion filled by the desire to flee or hide.

"The first and great lesson we have to apply to ourselves and to one another (from this text) is it is very wrong for a Christian to ever be in such a condition. I do not care what the circumstances may be, the Christian should never be agitated or beside himself like this, the Christian should never be at wits end, or should never be in a condition where he has lost control of himself...a Christian should never, like the worldly person, be depressed, agitated, alarmed, frantic, not knowing what to do."

**Spiritual Depression: It's Causes and Cures, Martyn Lloyd-Jones**

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR FAITH FALTERS?

1. A powerful argument: understand the e\_\_\_\_\_ nature of the character of God and His kingdom. (Psalm 73)
2. The most powerful argument: behold the glory and majesty of the cross.

**Romans 8:32** *“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”*

## NEW CITY CATECHISM

Question 1: What is our only hope in life and death?

Answer: That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

## HEIDELBERG CATECHISM LORD’S DAY 1

Question: What is your only comfort in life and death?

Answer: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready for now on to live for Him.

## APPLICATION

Faith is a refusal to p\_\_\_\_\_ or g\_\_\_\_\_ in to the prevailing cultural currents.

## QUESTIONS

1. What are some up close and personal issues that believers in your circles of relationship deal with?
2. What arguments underscore Paul’s statements in 2 Corinthians 5 regarding “we walk by faith and not by sight”?
3. Why is the glory of the cross considered an argument that is ‘a fortiori’ (an argument from the stronger to the lesser)?
4. Why is faith a refusal to panic or give in (panic in a given situation or give in to the prevailing cultural currents)?

**ANSWER KEY: eternal, panic, give**