

## (Luke 8:22~25)

This passage is a lesson on faith...faith in the words of the Lord Jesus. Even though this event took place on a different day, it is still tied to the teachings here in chapter eight, dealing with the parable of the sower, the candle and the family of God. This was a “*real-life test*” of those teachings, one that the disciples failed.

The theme throughout this chapter is “*Hearing*.” In the parable of the sower, he mentions four kinds of hearers, and how they responded to the word of God. Then declares in the parable of the candle, that those who understand will reflect it in their everyday life. Then cautions them to be careful as to how they hear the word of God, emphasizing obedience, then declares, that it is those who hear the word of God and do it, that are the family of God.

(Vs 21) *My mother and my brethren are these, which hear the word of God, and do it.*

By describing His family, as “...*those who hear the word of God, and do it...*” it’s important to understand the kind of obedience that He’s speaking of. The “*word of God*” here, refers to the “*word of the kingdom*,” the message of Christ! Given that, what He says, takes on a whole new meaning. By describing His family, as “...*those who hear the word of God, and do it...*” we learn that Jesus was not speaking of a “*Call to right actions*” so much, as many presume, but rather a “*Call to a relationship*.” The “*Message of the kingdom*,” the gospel of Christ, is a message of “*Faith*,” it is a call to *faith in God’s Son*, Jesus Christ.

Understood correctly, we understand that the emphasis on “*hearing the word of God and doing it*,” is not speaking to “*keeping the commandments of God*,” as it is submission to the “*person of God...Jesus*.”

It’s important we make that point very clear, because many feel they are “*obedient to God*,” based on the fact they adhere to the commandments of this book. A great example of this is the Scribes and Pharisee’s. No one, and I do mean no one, were as diligent, and earnest in their submission to God’s Laws as they were. They were very meticulous, in the manner in which they kept the Law. If anyone were to be declared to be the “*family of God*” **on the basis of obedience to the commandments of God**...it would be them! But that’s **not** the “*kind of obedience*” he’s referring to here...

We see this same truth in Luke 18:18...*The Rich Young Ruler*... This young man came to Jesus asking how he could obtain “*eternal life*”. Jesus points to the law, and says “*You know the commandments...*” Of which the young man claims to have kept all of his life! (Which according to the gospel, just the opposite is true.) Jesus responds, by telling the young man, “*there’s one thing you need to do...sell everything you’ve got, and come follow me!*” Jesus pointed out the “*One thing*” that kept this young man from eternal life...his love for money. But the emphasis there is, all his “*supposed obedience to the commandments*” didn’t amount to anything. Though he diligently adhered to the commandments of God, and in his mind “*kept the commandments*,” he was no more part of the family of God, than the wicked Gentiles... He could have been, Jesus invited him to come follow him, but it required him to give up this world...something he wasn’t willing to do...

When he says, “*My mother and my brethren are these, which hear the word of God, and do it.*” When correctly understood, you will understand that he was teaching just the opposite of that kind of obedience. As made clear in that passage, to merely adhere to the “*principles*” of this book, and not the “*person*,” would be to miss the whole point. Matter of fact, the teachings of Christ, were to “*abandon such efforts!*” In Christ, we are no longer under the Law...

Clarify “*Self-efforts*”... The fact that the teachings of Christ teaches contrary to keeping the Law of God, in no way does that suggest “*lawless living*.” In that we can live how we want to, and still be right with God. I have to clarify this because that is the way many perceive it to be in our day, they think obedience and faithfulness is not required. God forbid, it teaches nothing of the sort! By teaching against adherence to the Law of God, the gospel merely declares that men are not made just before Him, by their obedience to the Law. Because no matter how “*Right*” they may appear to be, the gospel teaches that all men are sinners, and all we can produce is sin! Therefore, no amount of obedience to the Law, regardless of how earnest and how genuinely sincere one may be in trying to be to God, it is to no avail, because the only things we can produce is sin...

Listen very closely... The aim of the gospel, in calling men to “*turn from the Law*,” is to get men to turn from “*Trusting in themselves*,” to “*Trusting in Christ!*”

The “*Just*” shall “*Live by Faith*”... The children of God are those who no longer place their trust in their obedience to the Law...but place their trust in Christ!

Unlike men, who “*trust in themselves*” that they are righteous by their “*so-called obedience*” to God’s word...I acknowledge that I am a sinner through and through. And that no amount of adherence on my part is sufficient to *warrant my justification* before God! I have not the slightest hope of being right with God on the basis of my “*obedience to God’s Law!*” I am not trusting in that... My hope, my faith, my trust is in the Lord Jesus, and Him alone!

I can’t stress enough, how important it is that we understand the “*obedience*” he is calling for here... The “*word of God*” here refers to the *message of the kingdom*, which is the *message of Christ*. The “*obedience*” in view is not so much, “*Adherence to a set of principles*,” but rather a call to “*Faith in a Person!*” The “*Obedience*” in view here is that of “*Faith*.” Trusting in Christ...and not ourselves...

Those who “*Trust in their so-called obedience, faithfulness to God’s word*”...manifest they walk in darkness! They do not understand the gospel of Christ! For if they understood it, they’d realize their “*most diligent, and sincere efforts*” (what they consider to be righteousness) is nothing more than dung! For Paul declares that the best a man can produce, by keeping the Law, is manure! Reason being, it’s man-made, and all men are sinners!

The only “*true righteousness*” is the Lord Jesus Christ himself... The only hope for men, is that their eyes would be opened to this reality, and come to Christ! **(Thus the story of the storm on the sea here...)**

**(Vs 22~25)** The lesson here is one of “*Faith*”... That of trusting in Christ, and not ourselves...

**The Scene**... We are told, that Jesus along with the disciples, boarded a boat and set sail across the Sea of Galilee, headed for the other side. We are told that along the way, Jesus fell asleep, and that a “*Violent wind storm*” came upon them. Luke describes the intensity of the wind storm, by stating that the water became so rough, that their boat was filled with water from the crashing waves, and that it was so bad, that they were in danger of sinking. According to what they said to Jesus when they woke him up, they thought this was it, they thought they were going to die... <sup>24</sup>*And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish.*

I want you to get this picture in your mind... The disciples found themselves in a bad situation. No doubt, they had combated the situation as hard and as long as they could, before they went to Jesus (for it took time for the boat to fill with water). But in spite of their diligent efforts, the situation continued to worsen, to the point, it looked “*Hopeless*”...

It's important that you get the picture in your mind, because given the situation, it looked HOPELESS... They ***DID NOT BELIEVE***, they were going to make it! Picture that in your mind, because it is in that context, that Jesus replies... "***Where is your faith?***" **Why are you so hopeless?** Now I don't want to miss this, when you put yourself in their shoes, when you put yourself in that same situation... His question might have sounded foolish! (***Think about it, the boat is full of water, it is on the verge of sinking, and the winds show no sign of slowing down***). And He responds by asking them, where their hope is?

I can imagine, they were probably like... WHAT? What do you mean, where is our faith? Can you not SEE? Are you BLIND to what's going on here? When you consider the situation, it's easy to understand why they were hopeless! By all accounts, the boat was going down, and them with it! They'd done everything they could, but it was to no avail...the boat was going down.

What a perfect picture this is of the gospel of Christ... The more I think about it, this whole event was orchestrated by God, to teach his disciples on the matter of faith.

This whole passage, hinges on the words of Christ... "***Let us go over to the other side of the lake...***" Beloved...those are the "***words of God***." When Jesus said they were going over to the other side of the lake...NOTHING could prevent that from happening! ***Come hell or high water***...nothing would stop the fulfillment of these words! The word of God is sure... In Matthew 24, Jesus said, "***Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away!***" That is to say, that everything we know and see in this world, will pass away...one day all of it will fail and collapse! But NOT the WORD OF GOD! God's word is eternal...and will stand when everything else fails!

This passage here serves as a real life example of what He had just been teaching his disciples...faith in HIS word. That helps you to understand why he asked them where their faith was. By the way, where was their faith? It was in the "***Seen,***" in the circumstances, rather than the "***word of God***." I'm convinced the whole situation was given to teach the disciples a valuable lesson on faith.

Even though this was likely one of the scariest days of their lives, I'm convinced that it was likely the best day of their lives. The reason I say that, is that Jesus taught them a very valuable lesson that day that no doubt stuck with them, throughout the rest of their lives! They come to learn that God is faithful to his word...He will perform every word out of His mouth! They also learnt that their "***best efforts***" could not save them. That without Christ...they would have died that day!

The same is true with the gospel of the kingdom... Christ is our only hope. We must abandon our faith in ourselves, speaking of our trusting in our obedience to the Law of God to save us, and turn to the Person of Scripture, the Lord Jesus for our salvation! We must realize, we are all in the same boat, we are all sinners, without hope. And that without Christ, every one of us would perish!

Here we see the disciples, in fear and torment...while Jesus is sleeping. The difference is faith. Jesus was at total peace, in spite of devastating circumstances, knowing they will go to the other side. Whereas the disciples, were in turmoil, because lost sight of the word of God, by looking to the circumstances... Listen, I'm not going to use this passage (as some prosperity preachers do today) to teach, that no matter what you go through (the storms of life) that all will be well! Because that is just not true! It is quiet apparent, by the events of life, that not everything works out to the good. Many times, our situations have a tragic ending. But what this passage does teach, is that whatever God SAYS...will come to pass! You can count on HIS WORD! He will not fail to do, what He says He will Do!

Beloved... I want to leave you with a great word of encouragement... One that if you will lay it to heart, will supply you with the peace of God, no matter what life my bring to you. First and foremost...God is faithful. He will never fail to do, what He says He will do...Secondly, the one you follow, He is Lord over ALL! There is nothing outside His control! Even the winds and the water obey HIM!