

There Were Other Little Boats

INTRODUCTION:

- A. **Matthew 8:23-27** - Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him.

And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.

So the men marveled, saying, "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

- B. The Sea of Galilee is one of the most beautiful and peaceful and restful bodies of water on the earth.
1. There is something about its azure blue waters, nestled among the surrounding mountains that instills peaceful quiet rest.
 2. But due to the surrounding topography, it is subject to sudden torrents of wind that come rushing down through the mountain passes and churn those peaceful waters into angry waves which endanger the safety of small boats.
 - a. The cooler air from the north collides with the warmer air from the south resulting in an instant storm.
 - b. December 1972 - Cut short a noon meal in order to beat the increasing rough seas in order to travel by boat from Tiberias to Capernaum.
- C. Recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the occasion of our text finds:
1. Jesus had healed Peter's mother-in-law of a fever.
 2. In the evening He had healed many who were sick and many who were demon -possessed.
 3. While surrounded by a great crowd, "He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea." **18**
 4. Before entering the boat:
 - a. A man said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever You go," to which Jesus replied, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no where to lay His head." **vs 19-20**
 - b. Another said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." **v. 21** To which Jesus responded, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead." **v. 22**
 - c. Then "He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him."
- D. Our Savior must have been tired from His preaching and teaching among the multitudes of people that had gathered around Him, and upon entering the peaceful boat and launching out on the peaceful sea, He went to the back of the boat (stern) and fell asleep. Then it happened:

1. Suddenly the winds whipped up great waves that began to toss the boat as though it were a fisherman's cork.
 2. Matthew tells us that **"The boat was being covered with the waves."** v. 24
 3. They awakened Jesus, who spoke to the winds and the waves, and just as suddenly as he spoke, the calm returned.
- E. Faithful Bible students know that all of the miracles Jesus performed were to confirm His Sonship as the Son of God . . . thus, His Deity. **John 20:30-31** – **"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."**
- F. At this point let us observe that just as storms occur frequently on the peaceful and placid Sea of Galilee, so storms are frequent in the lives of the Savior's followers.
1. To accompany Jesus, that is, to follow Christ, doesn't exempt people from the tempests that often disturb the peace within any life.
 2. Regardless how rough the seas may become about it, remember that you have Jesus on board your life.
 3. Because of their fearfulness and lack of trust, Jesus said to those in the boat he was in, **"Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?"** v. 26
 4. That statement was in response to their cry, **"Save us Lord; we are perishing!"** v. 25
 5. Perhaps we should learn that we should go to Jesus with our troubles.
- G. Earlier I mentioned that this event in our Lord's life is recorded in Matthew, mark, and Luke. Mark adds a detail that Matthew doesn't.
1. **Mark 4:36** – **"Other boats were with Him."**
 2. Herein lies the remainder of our study.

"OTHER BOATS WERE WITH HIM."

- A. Many read this story and conclude that there was only one ship on the sea that evening.
1. They would conclude that only the ones in the boat Jesus was in experienced the fury of the storm.
 2. They would conclude that all of the fear of the sea that night would be contained only in the disciples in the boat Jesus was in.
 3. They would conclude that only the handful in that little boat profited from the power of Jesus that night.
- B. But Mark says there were other boats out there that night. In fact, **Mark 4:36** says, **"And other boats were with Him."** Do you realize the impact of that statement?
1. Those boats were on the same stormy sea as the Lord's boat.
 2. Those boats were being tossed to and fro by the same storm.
 3. Those boats were being filled with water from the wind and high waves just as the boat Jesus was in.
 4. Those in those boats were likewise in grave danger of perishing, too.
 5. Those boats were sailing in the same darkness and danger as the boat Jesus was in.
- C. For the moment, put yourself in one of those **"other boats"** that **"were with Him."**

1. Suddenly, and for no apparent reason at all as far as they could see.
 - a. The winds hushed . . .
 - b. The waves subsided and lay quietly on a milky smooth sea.
 - c. It went from “the perfect storm” to “the perfect clam. “And it became perfectly calm.”
Mark 4:39
 - d. That which had generated from the boat where Jesus was benefited the “other boats” as well.

D. Listening friends . . . isn't the lesson of influence obvious here.

1. We become so preoccupied with what's going on in our own little boat that we hardly recognize that there are other boats in the sea of life until someone like mark comes along to remind us. May we stay so reminded today!
2. We are busy with:
 - Our lives
 - Our jobs
 - Our businesses
 - Our portfolios
 - Our farms
 - Our vacations
 - Our retirement
 - Our family problems
 - Our financial worries
 - Etc.

That we do not stop to consider how it all may be affecting the “other boats” around us.

3. What is it that occupies so much of our time, attention, and resources that we think it's really nobody's business what we do here in our little boat!
4. Friends, there really are other little boats out there in the sea of life, and what we do over here in our little boat does have an effect on the lives of the people in all those other boats . . . either for good or for bad . . . to alter lifestyles.
5. Permit me to read to you something a preacher acquaintance of mine wrote about an incident that happened to him early in his growing-up years. I want you to hear the story as told in his own words.

When I was a small boy—before I started to school at age five—It was in the spring of the year that my sister and I had a baby duck. I don't remember where we got it; maybe somebody had given it to us for Easter, or something like that. We played with this little duck around in the back yard on our farm. We had an old cistern which was not in use since we had drilled a new well, and it was covered over, ground-level with concrete. It served as sort of a patio. It had a hole in the center, however, where the bucket was dropped into the cistern to draw out the water.

One day we were playing with that baby on that cistern. We removed the cover from over that hole and we were dropping pebbles down through it, and were listening to them splash in the water many feet below, when this little duck came up to see what was so interesting down there. It edged up to the hole peeked down in that hole, and

before we could prevent it, that little duck fell into the cistern; no way to get it out—and I suppose when it recovered from the fall, it swam, and swam, and swam until it died.

That made an indelible impression on me. I'll never forget it. I laid awake and cried that night over my duck who had fallen into the well. It was only a little duck, but I felt keenly that I had caused it to plunge to its death. God forbid that you or I should even innocently or unwittingly lead anyone into such physical danger—and even more importantly, spiritual disaster! What a terrible thought that holds fort me! I couldn't bear it.

Even if God has not said for us not to do some things, I still wouldn't do them. If some child should hear me take the Lord's name in vain and be lost because of it, I couldn't bear the thought of it. If some child were to see me drink a beer, and by my influence he were to become an alcoholic and a derelict, I would never live long enough to forgive myself. If some child were to be influenced by my life so as to be lost in eternity, I would be afraid to meet God in judgment.

E. One time during the earthly ministry of our Lord, the disciples of our Lord came to Him and asked **"Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"** **Matthew 18:1**

1. Notice what Jesus did and said in response to that question: **Matthew 18:2-6** – **Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**

Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

2. Parents, are you listening?
 - a. Children are little boats around you in your sea of life.
 - b. Those children have big ears and big eyes.
 - c. What do they see in you?
 - d. What do they hear from your mouth?
 - e. They didn't come into the world because they chose to do so.
 - f. Nor did they get to choose their parents.
 - g. Being their parent is your responsibility . . . and their eternity is your responsibility..
 - h. What you do affects their lives and eternity very, very much.
 - i. Is your business, your job, your pleasures, your friends, more important to you than being a Christian and a good parent, leading your children in the right way?
 - j. If they are lost eternally, it would be better for you that a millstone were hanged around your neck and you had been drowned before they were ever born to you.
3. Grown-ups smoke, curse, drink, gamble, read filthy, trashy pornographic literature—

sometime called “adult reading”—and other wise behave unseemly in the presence of children, as though they think these children are blind and deaf and mentally incompetent.

4. Listening friends, the point is, there are other little boats in the sea around us, and some of them are innocent children whose lives are effected by the behavior of the adults around them.
 5. People have been known to say, “it’s nobody’s business what I do.” Oh! My friend, how mistaken you are!. **Romans 14:7** – “For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself”
- F. Erring brother . . . erring sister . . . there are other little boats in your sea of life.
1. Is your drinking, is your cursing, is your reveling, is your unfaithfulness as a child of God keeping someone who knows that you belong to Christ and are a professed Christian, from becoming a child of God?
 2. You need to think about your influence.
- G. Some people say, “Oh, what I’m doing is not wrong for me.” The Bible has something to say about that, too
1. **Proverbs 12:15** – “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise..”
 2. **Proverbs 28:24** – “Whoever robs his father or his mother, And says, ‘It is no transgression,’ The same is companion to a destroyer.”

THE POSITIVE NATURE OF INFLUENCE

- A. Because the Lord calmed the stormy sea in response to the appeal of the disciples in His boat, others in the other boats, received the good benefits as well.
- B. When a person obeys the Gospel of Christ and lives faithful t it, others around that person will be influenced in the direction of righteousness.
 1. **2 Corinthians 3:2** – “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men.”
 - b. Everyone has an influence. Yours may be good or it may be bad . . . but you have an influence just as surely as you have a showdown.
 - c. God holds us accountable for our influence.
- C. People sometimes wonder what the world is coming to.
 1. The answer to that is the kind of influence that you and I have in it.
 2. When Jesus stilled the tempest for those in His boat, it was still for all of the other people in other little boats in the sea that day, too.
 3. And you can remember that there are still other little boats in the sea influenced by what you are doing in your boat.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Edgar A. Guest wrote a lot of just plain true-to-life poems . . . like this own:

“Suppose,” said I, “that you should see

A small boy tumble from a tree;
How would you tell that tale to me?"

'Why, Dad," said he, "I'd simply say;
'I saw a fellow hurt today,
And two men carried him away.

"How many injured would there be?"
I asked. "Just one, of course," said he,
"The boy who tumbled from the tree."

"No, No," I answered him, "that fall
Which hurt the lad brought pain to all
Who knew and loved that youngster small.

"His mother wept, his father sighed,
His brothers and his sisters cried,
And all his friends were hurt inside."

Remember this your whole life through;
Whatever may cause hurt to you
Must hurt us all who love you too.

You cannot live your life alone;
We suffer with your slightest groan
And make your pain and grief our own.

If you should do one shameful thing,
You would not bear alone the sting;
We'd spend our years in suffering.

How many hurt? We cannot state.
There never falls a blow of fate
But countless people feel its weight.

B. Remember the other little boats around you . . . remember your influence on them.

C. "When You Thought I wasn't Looking" – Page 162 of Stories *From the Heat* compiled by Alice Gray.

When you though I wasn't looking I saw you hang my first painting on the refrigerator,
and I wanted to paint another one.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you feed a stray cat, and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw you make my favorite cake just for me, and I knew that little things are special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I heard you say a prayer, and I believed there was a God I could talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I felt you kiss me goodnight and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt, but it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I saw that you cared, and I wanted to be everything that I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking, I looked . . . and wanted to say thanks for all the things I saw when you thought I wasn't looking.

Mary Rita Schilke Korzan

D. God's plan for man's salvation.