

New FOCUS

LUKE 8:22-25 ~ “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake”

- **The Text:** ²² One day Jesus said to his disciples, “**Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.**” So they got into a boat and started out. ²³ As they sailed across, Jesus settled down for a nap. But soon a fierce storm came down on the lake. The boat was filling with water, and they were in real danger. ²⁴ The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!” When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the raging waves. Suddenly the storm stopped and all was calm. ²⁵ Then he asked them, “Where is your faith?” The disciples were terrified and amazed. “**Who is this man?**” they asked each other. “When he gives a command, even the wind and waves obey him!” (Luke 8:22–25 NLT-SE)
 - **The Setting**
 - **A lake**...12 miles/6 miles/200 ft deep. The lake had many names depending upon who what referring to it. The wind often came up between 3pm and 7pm.
 - **A boat**...13 men on a small boat and Jesus is sleeping.
- **The People**
 - The **crowd** that was following Jesus...hundreds, maybe thousands of people; the curious, the hungry, the sick, the critics, and all sorts of random people who just wanted to be close to Jesus.
 - The **disciples** (*methetes* - “*apprentice*”) who were being trained by their Rabbi...This is still the primary way of spiritual training employed.
 - **Jesus**, who was preparing His disciples or apprentices with 3 goals in mind:
 - To **learn your rabbi’s “yoke”** (*his set of teachings*)
 - To **become like your rabbi**, your end goal being to “be your rabbi”
 - To **carry on your rabbi’s work** in the world (“*Go, and make disciples...*”)
- **The Message**
 - “**We’re going to the other side of the lake!**”
 - His **authority over nature** came from His role as Creator. The wind and the waves recognized His voice!
 - You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them. (Psa 89:9 ESV)
 - “**I have something I want you to see, hear, and learn.** It’s on the other side of the lake.”
- **Question:** **Why did Jesus cross the lake? To get to the other side!**
 - When Jesus said let’s go over to the other side of the lake, there was a **bigger purpose**. Were the life lessons learned on the trip valuable? Certainly, but the disciples were going to have a front row seat as they witnessed Jesus performing some incredible hands-on ministry with a demon-possessed man.
 - When the boat touched shore, Jesus was **immediately met by a man needing deliverance**. He finished that project and immediately headed back across the lake to Galilee where he was greeted by the crowds he had left earlier.

dis·ci·ple
/deˈsɪpl̩/

noun
noun: disciple; plural noun: disciples

a personal follower of Jesus during his life, especially one of the twelve Apostles.
synonyms: [apostle](#), [follower](#)
“the disciples of Jesus”

• a follower or student of a teacher, leader, or philosopher.
“a disciple of Rousseau”
synonyms: [follower](#), [adherent](#), [believer](#), [admirer](#), [devotee](#), [acolyte](#), [votary](#); [More](#)

- **Jesus**, the disciple's Rabbi, **took them across the lake for a reason**. He had a plan. He was about to reveal who He was in a most remarkable way.
- **It's "TIME FOR CHANGE" at Evangel**. Tonight, we're starting a 4-week series that will help prepare us for the change that's coming.

- **New Focus**...What are we looking for?
- **New Time**...How will we align ourselves to what we find?
- **New Mission**...Into what will we put our energy?
- **New Hope**...How will god sustain us as we move forward?
- **Doug Addison's** article, "**Expect Changes, Changes, Changes!**" on Wednesday, October 15, 2014:

New Revelation

"New revelation is flowing for your situation through December. This revelation will bring about a **course change** that will **align you with your destiny**.

"So I opened my mouth, and He gave me the scroll to eat." Ezekiel 3:2

Expect this sweet, new revelation to bring about changes in your course. As it comes, it will bring **new connections, deeper insight, strategies, strength and encouragement**. You will have a greater understanding on your next steps for January 2015 as you act on what God says **over the next few months.**"



Doug Addison

- **Jesus is taking weak things in our region and strengthen them!** Our assignment hasn't changed. We are not abandoning what we've been doing to do something different. Everything we've learned as a people has prepared us to be where we are. Now, we are being given a new discipleship challenge, one we're not quite prepared for, but one that will help prepare us for where we are headed...
- **Strengthening Individuals**...What can we do to bring the best out in people? How can we support each other as we pursue the destiny we have in God together? These are real questions that have real answers.
 - ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. **Your strength comes from God's grace**, not from rules about food, which don't help those who follow them. (Heb 13:8-9 NLT-SE)
 - I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, **who has given me strength to do his work**. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, (1 Tim 1:12 NLT-SE)
- **Strengthening Families**...God is strengthening families and is asking us to join Him in this adventure. **This isn't something we initiate**, but we're asking for discernment to be able to see where He is bringing strengthening and cooperating with the Holy Spirit as He moves families towards wholeness.
 - **The family is at the heart of God's purpose and design for humanity.**
 - The Bible makes clear the **important role of family** precisely because it is the place where we are formed and mature and where we learn values and grow in faith.
- **Strengthening Congregations**...For the past 20 years, we have pursued breaking down walls between congregations and we're not stopping now! Evangel will continue to look for opportunities to build relationships with other congregations through shared ministry (*TRiHOP, Love INC, School of the Spirit*) and outreach (*Community House, Caring Pregnancy Center and Emergency Support Shelter*).