

First Light

Reporter: “Sir, can you tell us what happened?”

Simon: “All I know is I thought I was going to die that day. Look, I’ve been on that water a thousand times and seen plenty of storms, but I’ve never seen a squall come up so fast – and I’ve never been that scared. So, it all started whenever the teacher wanted all of us to go to the other side of the lake. Pretty much when he says go, we all go. Everything seemed fine –clear skies, calm water, nice day to sail and hopefully get lunch on the other side. We’d been on the water probably an hour and a half and one of my friends on the boat noticed a bit of a cloud showing up ahead and so we thought we might drift a bit west to try to catch the edge of it. Well, the more we drifted the more it surrounded us. As the sky darkened, the waves became more and more troublesome to navigate, with water starting to come into the boat... You know, we left with such short notice – we normally would’ve been more prepared for the journey, but sometimes that’s how he did a lot of things- short on planning. Well, by the time we had been on the water like two and a half hours, we were in a full-fledged storm of unbelievable fury. There was a point that we all knew that this was the end, so James and John went down in the stern where the teacher was sleeping (I asked myself, how could he be sleeping?!) They screamed at him, waking him saying, ‘Don’t you care if we drown?’ That’s when his whole countenance changed – how he looked at each of us was totally different. I can still see him standing up as the boat is rocking like crazy and then he comes up the steps to the deck and sees us all freaking out and soaking wet. He never even looked at the sky or the water or the sails or anything, but us – he looked straight at us! Then he raised his hands and yelled, ‘Quiet!’ The next thing that happened still makes the hair on my neck stand up. In the instant he yelled, the storm immediately fell silent – no waves, no rain, no wind, no nothing – the boat was completely still. Then without even blinking, he looked straight at me and asked, ‘Why are you so afraid? I was speechless...There I stood-- soaking wet, blurry-eyed and cold, but I couldn’t get a word out. I was always the one who had a quick reply or a joke – but not that day. I remember thinking, ‘Who IS this guy?!’ ... Over the next few days, the teacher healed over a hundred people, even raised a girl from the dead -- Oh, and he somehow pulled baskets of food out of nowhere! But on the day of that storm, he asked me another question when he looked right at me: ‘Where’s your faith?’

Reporter: How did you answer that question?

Simon: I really didn’t. I just stood there, wondering what just happened. Things haven’t been the same since...I haven’t been the same since. (Rubbing his forehead)...You know, nothing has been the same since...

**--- Interview with Peter after Jesus calmed the storm
(Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25)**