

THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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January – Matthew 8:18-34

And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. ¹⁹ Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay *His* head.” ²¹ Then another of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” ²² But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.” ²³ Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. ²⁵ Then His disciples came to *Him* and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

²⁸ When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed *men*, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. ²⁹ And suddenly they cried out, saying, “What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?” ³⁰ Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. ³¹ So the demons begged Him, saying, “If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine.” ³² And He said to them, “Go.” So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. ³³ Then those who kept *them* fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what *had happened* to the demon-possessed *men*. ³⁴ And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged *Him* to depart from their region.

OKAY, HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

The Scribe, a teacher of the word of God, came to Jesus determined that he was going to follow him. However, Jesus let him know that it may be difficult. Maybe he would have to pay his own expenses and there was no guarantee that he would have a plush hotel to stay in. Not everything was going to be a teaching seminar! Another man came to Jesus saying Lord I will follow you but first let me go and bury my father. The Lord said something amazing to this man. He said let the dead bury their dead but you follow me! Wow! You would think that Jesus would have been pleased that he wanted to honor his father by taking care of the funeral arrangements. Of course we should honor our parents and take care of our loved ones. However, for this man the Lord discerned that this was going to be a roadblock and cause him to be diverted away from God's purpose for his life. Why? Perhaps Jesus discerned that he was going to be criticized and discouraged by family members about his decision to follow Jesus the Messiah. The Lord knows the roadblocks in our lives as well. Sometimes we just have to make

a decision to prioritize Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives and not let anything stop us from following him and his plan for our lives!

Next we read about Jesus and the disciples getting in a boat to cross over a lake but as they went a storm came up and this was no ordinary storm. No, this was pure devil straight from Hell. The disciples thought that they were going to perish so they woke up Jesus from a deep sleep after an intensive time of ministry. Just like the devil to attack you when you're tired. Now it's amazing what happened next. The Lord jumped up rebuked the winds and the waves! Then the Bible says there was a great calm. You know many times Christians allow things to manipulate and bring destruction to their lives. Jesus discerned that the storm was not from his heavenly father but from the devil so he took authority over it and that's what we need to do when we discern that the evil one is moving against us in one form or another. If the devil tried to destroy Jesus the Son of God how much more will he attempt to destroy us who bear his name and do his works today?

WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

- 1) Just like the Scribe, we may have a desire to follow Jesus but need to count the cost. The Lord never promised that following Him would be easy but He did promise to be with us!
- 2) Like the other man that wanted to follow the Lord but needed to first go bury his father we need to discern anything that would take us out of the will of God by giving it a higher priority than the Lord's revealed purpose for our lives.
- 3) When a storm comes your way you need to determine its source. If it is in fact the devil trying to destroy you, don't be a doormat! And don't blame God and say He's just trying to teach me something. No, rise up and rebuke the devil and exercise your authority in the name of Jesus in prayer and you'll have peace once again because the Bible says submit yourself to God resist the devil and he will flee from you! James 4:7



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