

Han leder os med ud i stormen og frelser os

4. søndag e. hellig 3 konger, 2. feb. 2025 i Aarhus og København. LGJ

Salmer: 696, Tillæg og kongevers 178, 31v1.6 // 129, 430, 298

Matthæusevangeliet 8,23-27

Jesus gik om bord i en båd, og hans disciple fulgte ham. Da blev der et voldsomt uvejr på søen, så båden skjultes af bølgerne. Men han sov. Og de kom hen og vækkede ham og sagde: "Herre, frels os! Vi går under!" Men han sagde til dem: "Hvorfor er I bange, I lidettroende?" Da rejste han sig og truede ad storm og sø, og det blev helt blikstille. Men folk undrede sig og sagde: "Hvem er han, siden både storm og sø adlyder ham?"

Det handler om at efterfølge, følge efter. Sådan begynder teksten: *Og hans disciple fulgte ham.* Jesus har jo kort forinden tale om at efterfølge ham. Det er, hvad en discipel gør. Men det koster noget.

Jesus har umiddelbart forinden talt om sine disciple som dem, der efterfølger ham: *Og en skriftklog kom til ham og sagde: «Mester, jeg vil følge dig, hvor du end går hen.» Men Jesus sagde til ham: «Ræve har huler, og himlens fugle har reder, men Menneskesønnen har ikke et sted at hvile sit hoved.»* (Matt 8,19-20).

Og vers 21-22: *En anden af hans disciple sagde: «Herre, giv mig lov til først at gå hen og begrave min far.» Men Jesus sagde til ham: «Følg mig, og lad de døde begrave deres døde.»*

Når Matthæus derefter siger: Jesus gik i en båd og hans disciple fulgte ham, kan vi forstå vores evangelium i dag som svar på, hvad efterfølgelse er og indebærer. Vi hører, det gik dem, som fulgte med JESUS. Og vi i evangeliet at vide, hvad det betyder os at være døbt, tro på Jesus og følge ham.

1.

Jesus gik om bord i en båd, og hans disciple fulgte ham.

Det var bare det, de gjorde. Hvad ellers? De præsterede ikke noget særligt. De gjorde ikke noget særligt fromt. De gik ikke et særligt kristent sted hen. De gik ombord i en båd, fordi Jesus gik ombord i båden. Nok en af de både, de brugte til fiskeri. De ville bare være, hvor Jesus var. - At være kristen er at blive taget med af

He leads us out into the storm and saves us

4th after Epiphany, Feb.2, 2025 in Aarhus and Copenhagen. LGJ

Hymns: 696, Appendix and Kings verse 178, 31v1.6 // 129, 430, 298

Matt. 8:23-27 NAS

23 And when He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And behold, there arose a great storm in the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves; but He Himself was asleep. 25 And they came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" 26 And He said to them, "Why are you timid, you men of little faith?" Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and it became perfectly calm. 27 And the men marveled, saying, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

It's about following our Lord. This is how the text begins: *And his disciples followed him.* Jesus has recently spoken of following him. That is what a disciple does. He follows his Master and Lord. But it comes at a cost.

Jesus spoke of disciples as his followers before he got into the boat: ¹⁹ *And a certain scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." (Matt. 8:19-20 NAS)*

And verses 21-22: *And another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead." (Matt. 8:21-22 NAS)*

When Matthew then says: **Jesus went in a boat and His disciples followed Him**, we can understand our Gospel today as an answer to what following is and entails. We hear it happened to those who followed with JESUS. And we in the gospel are told what it means to us to be baptized, believe in Jesus and follow him.

1.

Jesus went into a boat and His disciples followed him.

That's just what they did. They didn't perform anything special. They didn't do anything particularly pious. They did not go to a particularly Christian place. They went into a boat because Jesus went into the boat. Probably one of the boats they used for fishing. They just wanted to be where Jesus

Jesus, at være i ham og tage med ham gennem livet.

Hvor er det så, han har taget os med hen?

Først blev du skabt i din mors liv. Du blev født. Og du blev døbt og blev Guds barn. Iklædt Jesus Kristus. Døden blev overvundet i dit liv allerede da du blev døbt. Skylden blev vasket bort. Sådan begyndte det. Du blev hans discipel. Og det fortsatte med oplæring. Du lærte at bede Fadervor. Nogle af os voksede op i en kristen familie med bøn, bibel og sang. Og i en kristen menighed hvor Jesus var og er hos jer hver søndag. Andre fandt den senere. Familien og den kristne kirke og menighed er som et skib, hvor vi er sammen og sejler sammen. Og Jesus er med. Vi har jo ikke skabt eller valgt vores familie og menighed selv. Det er skabt af Gud og Guds gave til os.

Familien: Vi hørte det her i kirken for 3 søndage siden om familien, der rejste sammen til påskefest. Og Jesus var med. For 2 søndage siden hørte vi, at Jesus var med til et bryllup i Kana. Han er med i ægteskabet og velsigner. I sidste søndag hørte vi i evangeliet, at Jesus er med midt i livet i sygdom og lidelse. Han helbredte en spedalsk og hjalp en dreng ud af frygtelig lidelse. Jo, han vil være hos dig, når du er syg, og når der er lidelse i dit liv. Og i dag hører vi, at han er hos os, når der er storm i vores liv.

At være kristen og at efterfølge Jesus er ikke at blive noget specielt, men at være der, hvor Jesus har sat os. Og vi får lov at følge ham lige netop dér. Nej, vi må ikke bryde ud af familien, ikke bryde ud af ægteskabet, ikke bryde ud af menigheden og ikke isolere os fra andre mennesker, men være sammen med Jesus lige netop dér. Se hustavlen i Lille Katekismus i morgen aften! Der er et ord til præster, ægtefæller, børn, arbejdere, de unge, de ældre. Et ord at læse og følge for enhver kristen!

2.

Da blev der et voldsomt uvejr på søen, så båden skjultes af bølgerne. Men han sov.

Disciplene havde måske den forestilling, at der aldrig ville opstå vanskeligheder, hvis Jesus var hos dem. Ingen storm. Ingen problemer. Ingen lidelse. Ingen nød. Ingen sygdom. Ingen død. Havde de ikke en Herre, som kunne klare alt? Derfor ville de være mere end sikre på søen, når de sejlede med Jesus. Og det var de også. Men ikke sådan som de forestillede sig. For stormen kom. Båden skjultes af bølgerne. Og Jesus sov.

was. - To be a Christian is to be taken by Jesus, to be in Him and to go with Him through life.

So where has he taken us? First, you were created in the womb of your mother. You were born. And you were baptized and became God's child. Clothed with Jesus Christ. Death was overcome in your life already when in childhood when you were nowborn and baptized. The guilt was washed away. That's how it started. You became his disciple. And it continued with training. You learned to pray the Lord's Prayer. Some of us grew up in a Christian family with prayer, the Bible and singing hymns. And in a Christian congregation where Jesus was and is with you every Sunday. Others found it later. The family and the Christian church and congregation are like a ship where we are together and sail together. And Jesus is with us. We have not created or chosen our family and congregation ourselves. It is God's creation and God's gift.

The Christian family: We heard it here in church three Sundays ago about the family travelling to Easter feast. And Jesus was in the Family. Two Sundays ago we heard that Jesus was at a wedding in Cana. He is in the marriage and blesses. Last Sunday we heard in the Gospel that Jesus is in the middle of a life in sickness and suffering. He healed a leper and helped a boy out of terrible suffering. Yes, He will be with you when you are sick and when there is suffering in your life. And today we hear that He is with us when there is a storm in our lives.

To be a Christian and to follow Jesus is not to become anything special, but to be where Jesus has put us. And we get to follow him right there. No, as his disciples we are not supposed to break away from the family, not to break out of marriage, not to break away from the church and to isolate ourselves from other people, but to be with Jesus right there where he has promised to be with us. Take a look at the house tablet in the Small Catechism tomorrow evening! There is a word for bishops and pastors, spouses, children, workers, the young, the elderly. A word to read and follow for every Christian!

2.

And behold, there arose a great storm in the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves; but He Himself was asleep.

The disciples may have thought that difficulties would never arise if Jesus were with them. No storm. No problem. No suffering. No distress. No disease. No death. Didn't they have a Lord who could handle everything? Therefore, they would be more than safe at sea when they sailed with Jesus.

At Jesus sov, viser os, at Jesus var tryk. Han var selv et menneske som os. Han havde behov for at sove og hvile, ligesom vi har brug for søvn og hvile. Og han sov i tryk. Han var jo både jomfru Marias søn og Guds Søn. Hans Fader havde sin plan med ham. Det vidste han. Det hvilede han i. Han fulgte sin fars vilje.

Sådan også med dig, som er døbt. Herren har en plan med dig. Du ved, at det ender godt. Din Far sørger for dig. Også når der kommer en storm. Men vores tro er ikke som Jesus' tro. Vi har kun en lille tro, en svag tro, og den kan næsten forsvinde.

Og det er underligt nok sådan, at der er større fare for at vi mister troen, hvis alt går glat og livet er let og ligetil. For når alt går glat, har vi da ret meget at bruge Gud til? Beder vi? Eller glemmer vi? Da kan vi få den tanke, at vi ikke behøver at råbe om hjælp og at lytte til Jesus og modtage hjælp.

Er det mon ikke derfor der kommer en storm, så det ikke går let og glat, men vanskeligt og galt? I profeten Jonas' liv sendte Gud stormen for at kalde Jonas tilbage til troen og tjenesten. I Adams og Evas liv kom døden, smerten og sveden, for at de skulle finde frelse i barnet. På samme måde i vores liv. Der kan komme en storm. Og der kommer en storm! Storm i dine tanker og i dit hjerte: måske med angst. I din familie og i dit ægteskab: måske med krise i forhold til børn og forældre. På dit arbejde og med naboer: måske med uforudsete bekymringer og vanskeligheder. I dit legeme: måske med sygdom, lidelse, forkrænkelighed og undergang. Båden skjules af bølgerne. Eller måske i vort land: krig og usikkerhed om vi har en fremtid, om vi vil miste arbejde, hus og hjem, mad og kirke. – Livet kan opleves, som om Gud er borte, og at Jesus sover.

3.

Og de kom hen og vækkede ham og sagde: "Herre, frels os! Vi går under!" Men han sagde til dem: "Hvorfor er I bange, I lidetroende?"

Disciplene gjorde det rigtige: de bad til Jesus. "Herre, frels os!" Og Jesus spørger dem: "Hvorfor er I bange?" Er det ikke fantastisk: Der er ingen grund til at være bange, når Jesus er hos os. Lige meget hvad. *Hvorfor er I bange?* Men vi er bange. Vi bliver bange. For vi er det, JESus siger: "lidetroende". Vi har den lillebitte tro.

Hvor meget tro skal der da til? Evangeliet fortæller i dag, at der ikke skal andet til end at kalde på Jesus, vække Jesus i din bøn, kalde på

And they were. But not in the way they imagined. Because the storm came. The boat is hidden by the waves. And Jesus was asleep.

The fact that Jesus slept shows us that he was safe. He was a human being like us. He needed to sleep and rest, just as we need sleep and rest. And he slept in safety. He was both the son of the Virgin Mary and the Son of God. His Father had His plan for him. He knew that. He rested in that. He followed his father's will.

So also with you who have been baptized. The Lord has a plan for you. You know it ends well. Your Father provides for you. Even when a storm comes. But our faith is not like Jesus' faith. We have only a little faith, a weak faith, and it can almost disappear.

And strangely enough, there is a greater danger that we will lose faith if everything goes smoothly and life is easy and straightforward. Because when everything goes smoothly, do we have a lot to use God for? Do we pray? Or do we forget? Then we can get the idea that we do not need to cry out for help and to listen to Jesus and receive help.

Isn't that why there is a storm, so it doesn't go easy and smooth, but difficult and wrong? In the life of the prophet Jonah, God sent the storm to call Jonah back to faith and ministry. In the lives of Adam and Eve, death, pain, and sweat came to find salvation in the child. In the same way in our lives. There may be a storm. And a storm is coming! Storm in your thoughts and in your heart: perhaps with anxiety. In your family and in your marriage: perhaps with a crisis in relation to children and parents. At work and with neighbors: perhaps with unforeseen worries and difficulties. In your body: perhaps with sickness, suffering, corruption, and destruction. The boat is hidden by the waves. Or maybe in our country: war and uncertainty about whether we have a future, whether we will lose jobs, houses and homes, food and church. "Life can be experienced as if God is gone and that Jesus is asleep.

3.

And they came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" 26 And He said to them, "Why are you timid, you men of little faith?"

The disciples did the right thing: they prayed to Jesus. "Lord, save us!" And Jesus asks them, "Why are you afraid?" Isn't it amazing: There is no need to be afraid when Jesus is with us. No matter what. *Why are you afraid?* But we are afraid. We get scared. For we are what JESus says: "little of faith. We have the tiny faith.

ham i nøden, bede de bønner, han har lært os at bede. Bede i Jesu navn, når du har angst i dit hjerte, krise i dit ægteskab, problemer i familien og på arbejde og i din menighed. Jo, der kommer storme der, hvor dit skib befinder sig. Men Herren er med!

Hvad så? Sover Jesus ved Faderens højre hånd efter sin opstandelse? Han sov, mens han var i fornedrelsen hos os. Men han sover ikke mere. *Han sover ikke, han, som bevarer dig. Han som bevarer Israel, sin kirke, sover ikke. Han bevarer dig (Salme 121).*

4.

Da rejste han sig og truede ad storm og sø, og det blev helt blikstille. Men folk undrede sig og sagde: "Hvem er han, siden både storm og sø adlyder ham?"

Se, hvad Jesus gør, for dem, som råber i nøden og har en lille tro. Han redder dem! Og han er i samme båd som dem.

At være kristen er at være i samme båd som Jesus Kristus. For han er kommet til os. Han har forenet sig med os. Han har taget os med derhen, hvor vi er i livet. Han har sat os i familie og kirke. Og han har givet os en livsopgave. Han døbte os og oplærer os i troen. Derfor er der trygt at være kristen og at gå med ind på den livsvej, han leder os ind i.

Og han rejser sig og kan true af storm og sø, så der bliver blik stille. Det har han gjort tusinde gange i tidligere i dit liv. Og han er den samme i dag og vil gøre det igen og igen – indtil han på den yderste dag oprejser os fra graven og giver os det evige liv.

Folk spurgte: *Hvem er dog han?* Og vi kender svaret, fordi vi kender denne beretning fra Jesus' liv. Ja vi ved også, at han døde for vore synder. Og at han opstod fra graven. Jesus er vor Frelser og Herre. Hos dig. Hos os. Med dig. Med os. Med sin kirke i verden.

*Derfor vi sejle tør hver sø,
hvor farlig den så bryder;
derfor vi leve tør og dø
på ordet, som det lyder,
i Jesu navn, på Jesu ord,
som ej med himmel og med jord
forgår, men kun forklares.
Grundtvig DS 125v7*

How much faith does it take? The Gospel today tells us that all it takes is to call on Jesus, wake Jesus up in your prayer, call on Him in need, say the prayers He has taught us to pray. Pray in the name of Jesus when you have anguish in your heart, crisis in your marriage, problems in the family and at work and in your church. Yes, there will be storms where your ship is. But the Lord is with you!

What then? Does Jesus sleep at the right hand of the Father after His resurrection? He slept while he was in the humiliation with us. But he doesn't sleep anymore. *He does not sleep, He who preserves you. He who preserves Israel, his church, does not sleep. He keeps you (Psalm 121).*

4.

Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and it became perfectly calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

See what Jesus does for those who cry out in distress and have little faith. He saves them! And he is in the same boat as them.

To be a Christian is to be in the same boat as Jesus Christ. For He has come to us. He has joined us. He has taken us to where we are in life. He has put us in family and church. And he has given us a life's mission. He baptized us and trains us in the faith. Therefore, it is safe to be a Christian and to go along with the life path He leads us into.

And he gets up and can threaten storm and sea, so there is silence. He has done that a thousand times in the past in your life. And He is the same today and will do so again and again – until on the last day He raises us from the grave and gives us eternal life.

People asked: *Who is he?* And we know the answer because we know this account from Jesus' life; yes, we also know that He died for our sins. And that he rose from the grave. Jesus is our Savior and Lord. With you. With us. With you. With us. With his church in the world.

*Therefore we dare to sail every sea,
how dangerous it breaks;
therefore we dare live and die
on the word, as it sounds,
in the name of Jesus, on Jesus' word,
which does not with heaven and with earth
pass away, but is only clarified.
Grundtvig. DS 125 v7*