intro: pict. sea of galilee western shore (parallel texts Mk. 4:35-41; Lk. 8:22-25)

- Matt. 8:18-27 Jesus calms the Sea of Galilee

- map: Sea of Galilee
  - Jesus healed the centurion’s servant and Peter’s mother-in-law in Capernaum, take boat into the country of the Gadarenes

- pict.: Rembrandt’s rendering of Jesus and apostles on the violent Sea of Galilee
  - Bible: fierce gale, water swamped the boat, Jesus calmed the sea
  - 12’ waves reported by one eye witness to break upon the shore, said of Todd Bolen with BiblePlaces.com in his Oct. 10, 2005 newsletter, regarding a friend — pretend there, see and hear, fear, think going to die

- pict.: full-scale model Galilean boat - small boat in big storm, certain death if it had not been for Jesus

- pict.: Sea of Galilee after a storm - rainbow
  - Jesus calmed the Sea - Peace be still (Mk. 4:39, KJ)

- sermon: Four lessons from Jesus calming the Sea of Galilee

- #1 Apostles were following Jesus, but there faith should have been stronger.

- the apostles’ faith:
  - Matt. 8:26 Jesus said they were men of little faith — but (see next)
  - Mk. 4:30 And He said to them, ”Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?” - “still”
  - Matt. 8:18-23 the apostles not like others — they left family, friends, businesses and jobs — still lacked the faith they should have
  - application: you can be following Jesus, and still not have the strong faith God wants you to have

- to have strong faith, you must totally and completely entrust yourself to God.
  - Matt. 8:5-13 Jesus heals Centurion’s servant — Matt. 8:8-10 nothing impossible with Jesus
  - Matt. 8:1-4 leper’s faith — 8:2 “If you are willing”

- how do you increase your faith: (quick overview)
  - Rom. 10:17 be convinced and convicted by God’s word - unquestionably

- Rom. 1:16; 1 Th. 2:13 let word work on your heart, change you

- 2 Ja. 1:5 pray, ask God for help

- #2 They were afraid because they had “little faith.”
  - Matt. 8:24-26a they were afraid, had little faith
    - problem: they had not put 100% of their trust in Jesus — faith
    - Mk. 4:38 apostles ask, ”Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” - not trust 100%

- illus.: Matt. 14:22-33 Peter walking on the water, sank as his faith deteriorated - Matt. 14:27-31
  - Peter not believe, trust

- application, our task: work to have strong faith, never doubt, be brave and strong as we put our trust in God
  - illus.: Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me (#89), from Lk. 8:25
  - as we increase our faith we’ll be braver; to confront the stormy seas of life - take on life with confidence - to God’s glory
#3 Jesus was not afraid — His faith did not waiver.

- **Matt. 8:23-24** Jesus slept during the storm - faith God would take care of them
- **Heb. 2:13a** And again, "I will put my trust in Him." - Jesus put trust in God
- **Heb. 12:2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, - author of our faith
- **1 Pet. 2:21-23** Jesus is our example, “kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously”

- all the apostles could have slept, if they have complete faith and confidence in Jesus
  - attitude, state of mind - trust Jesus, God — not have to physically do anything different
- today: peace and contentment is a state of mind (attitude, paradigm) — based on faith (trust in God)
  - state of mind

2  - **1 Pet. 5:6-7; Phil. 4:6-7** cast care on God / prayer and supplication, peace
- **Rom. 5:6-10** God’s care for us - much more (vs. 9), saved by His life (10)
- illus.: If Jesus Goes With Me (#356) — sinking boat, storms of life

#4 They knew where to go to be saved!

- **Matt. 8:25** they asked Jesus to save them — **Matt. 8:26b** He did — Jesus solution to problem

- illus.: Peter walk on water, sick, cried out to Jesus
  - **Matt. 14:30-31a** But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him - pretend

- Application: Jesus is the answer:
  - If you have a problem, Jesus is the answer!
  - If you are struggling through trials, Jesus is the answer!
  - If you are trying to find your way through life, Jesus is the answer!
  - If you have unanswered questions in life, Jesus is the answer!
  - If you need to be saved, Jesus is the answer!

Summary / Inv.:

- all of us have obstacles in life we are trying to overcome
  - do not fear or worry — have faith in God, 100% trust God, don’t be afraid - it will be okay
- when you get ready to close your eyes in death, these things won’t matter.
  - all that matters is that you are a faithful child of God

- Jesus is the answer
- Inv.: go to Jesus to be saved
  - appeal to Jesus for salvation - obey His commands - appeal when obey in baptism
    - **1 Pet. 3:21** Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,