

“The Calm In The Storm”

Mark 4:35-41

Sermon Series: “Jesus In The Storm”

Introduction: Life is like a storm sometimes. It seems like we are sailing along very smoothly, and then, all of a sudden, out of nowhere, we are hit with something that seems like a hurricane. It may really be a natural disaster, or it can be the death of a loved one, financial problems, sickness, family problems or a host of other possibilities. Everyone has these kinds of storms that test their faith. In fact, it has been said that we are either in a storm, coming out of a storm, or heading into a storm. We are in a worldwide storm right now.

Let’s examine the context and background of this passage so we can have a fuller appreciation of what is actually occurring in this passage. Mark is a very fast-paced, action-oriented gospel. Jesus did several miracles that his disciples witnessed and are recorded in the first three chapters of Mark’s gospel. However, in chapter 4, the emphasis has been on teaching instead of action. Jesus had been teaching a massive crowd through parables. So, the disciples had seen the Son of God do miracles and heard Him teach the Word of God. Now, they were about to get tested. In the evening, He told them that He wanted them to cross over to the other side of the lake.

This actual event occurred on the Sea of Galilee, which is a freshwater lake located in the Jordan Valley with Mount Herman above. It is 13 miles long and 7.5 miles wide, but it is only 150 deep at its lowest point. The practical effect of all this is that a sudden storm can blow up and wind can whip violently down open places in the mountain range and actually create a funnel effect because of the shallowness of the water. There have actually been 10 foot high waves reported on the Sea of Galilee. Also, they had just engaged in a very intense day of ministry, and Jesus was obviously exhausted because He was sleeping through the storm. This account is a picture of both the humanity (sleeping) and deity (He, as the Creator, exercised power over nature) of Christ.

Jesus sent a storm to test His disciples. This was kind of their exam after seeing the miracles and hearing the teaching. It had to be a major storm to scare them so badly because at least four of them were professional fishermen. However, it is important to realize that there are many things in life that are beyond our ability to deal with on our own. I think control is an illusion that storms often strips away. Who do we really believe is in control? What are we trusting in? Craig Groeschel says, “Fear shows where I trust God least.” Some fear is normal but what I am trusting in to manage that fear? **This story shows us that Jesus is in control and is the calm in the storm. Why is this true?**

1. He is the person of God who is Master over every storm. This event shows that Jesus is Lord over nature. It is evidence that He is God (Psalm 107:23-30) because He is doing something only God can do. However, we also see His humanity because He was asleep. This was personal lesson for the disciples (and us) though because it demonstrates that He is Master over every storm. Warren Wiersbe says, “This meant that they had no reason ever again to be afraid for their Lord was in control of every situation.” The more we believe God is in control the less we will be afraid.

2. He has a plan for every storm. Jesus said to His disciples, “Let us cross over to the other side.” Jesus was going to get them to the other side because God’s commands always include God’s enabling. Where God guides, He provides. Faith is taking God at His Word and acting on it. He has a plan for the world. He has a plan for our lives that intersects with His plan for the world. His plan is going to be fulfilled, and we are safe until it is. They were in a storm because of their obedience so don’t assume that a storm means you are out of God’s will. However, there are storms of disobedience as well that are intended to be wake up calls that bring us to repentance (Jonah, for example).

3. He is present with us in every storm. Isaiah 41:10 says, “Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” God promises that He will never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). It is wonderful to know that God’s Spirit indwells every true believer so He is always with us and Jesus has been through storms so He emphasizes with us.

4. He has power over every storm. He demonstrated it here when He said, “Peace, be still.” He has the power to end storms. Sometimes that’s what He does. He has power to end the storm in us. He will always do that if we surrender to His work. Sometimes He chooses not to end the storm, at least in the way we want. But He is working all things together for the good for His children, and even in the final storm of death, He is the Resurrection and the Life who has defeated death and given us ultimate peace.

Will you trust Jesus with whatever is going on in your life? Will you repent of your sins and trust your life to Him?