

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

MARK 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, **“Let us go across to the other side.”** And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.

And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, **“Peace! Be still!”** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, **“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”** And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

THEN

What has Jesus been doing prior to crossing the Water?

- Teaching

How was Jesus teaching the crowds prior to this moment?

- Parables (Read Mark 4:1-34)
- Specifically about Faith & the Kingdom of God

Why does Jesus decide at this moment “the evening” to cross the water?

- Tired?
- Finished Teaching the Crowd?
- See who would follow?

What happens as they cross the water?

- Storm (Conditional History: Sea of Galilee, Mediterranean Sea)

What is the Disciples response to the Storm?

- “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”
- Fear! Panic!

What was many of the Disciples trade in Mark 1, when called to follow Jesus?

- Fishermen (Sea of Galilee)
- Would be used to Storms suddenly appearing on the water

So what does that tell us about this Storm?

- Ferocious, bigger than usual
- Boat is actually filling with water, real danger is present

When they come to Jesus what is he doing?

- Sleeping on a cushion
- Peaceful, secure

What does Jesus do in response to the disciples panic and fear?

- Calms the Storm (Rebukes the wind and the waves)

SIDEPOINT: Demon-Possessed man, next text

Then what does he say to the disciples?

- "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Why does Jesus say they have NO Faith?

- Panic shows the truth about their hearts
- Faith in Jesus to fix the problem, But no Faith that God is in control?

So what would even little faith look like in this situation for the disciples?

- Open Discussion

How do the disciples respond to Jesus' faith?

- "And they were filled with great fear"

What is the beginning of Faith based on this passage and Disciples response

- Fear of God
- Fear God more than we fear the storm
- Fear leads to faith, leads to the kingdom growing into the biggest of all Trees

NOW

What do the storms represent in our lives?

- Issues, problems that arise
- Open discussion about specific storms

How do we often respond?

- Like the disciples, fear and panic
- make the issues bigger in God

How should we respond to these situations?

- Even just little faith

What does little faith look like today, compared to the disciple's lack of faith in this passage?

- Confidence in what we hope for
- Assurance in things unseen (*Hebrews 11:1*)

Does Jesus still help us when we do not respond this way?

- And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!"
- Calms the storm for them

Is Jesus here to do that for us today?

- Open Discussion
- does intercede, but through the Bible

How does our response change based on Jesus' response to the Disciples?

- Re-catalyses' our fear of God
- helps us remember Heaven, God's control
- Helps us to respond with confidence, hope and assurance in God

How big do the storms seem once we read this passage and see's Jesus Response?

- Open Discussion

APPLICATION

What are some practical ways to generate that fear of God?

- Read the Bible
- Prayer
- Truth about our own hearts, letting people expose the truth in our responses (Elencho)

What does it look like when someone does Fear God and has even a little faith?

- Humble (Open, Surrendered)
- Serve (looking to others above themselves, making disciples)
- Consistent (repetition in these areas, including Quiet times vs. Emotional Response)

What is the result if we are not doing these things?

- Insecurity
- Fear and Panic
- Waiting for God to rescue us... Sounds like hard work when we could be at peace

HOW HAVE WE BEEN WITH OUR STORMS THIS LAST 2 MONTH?

Make a decision to change today!

SIDE POINT:

Jesus leaves after teaching the crowd – and without warning... why?

- Open Discussion

How was Jesus teaching the crowd?

- Parables

Why does he not just explain the truth plain and simple?

- Shows those seeking the truth and wanting a relationship with God

So why does really leave without warning?

- Limited time to respond
- not going to wait for you forever
- Urgency about Sin and about our Lostness is important

Why is this warning important?

- Jesus will return... like a thief in the night
- Your time to respond is limited
- Fear of God requires urgency to generate faith
- No excuses not to respond to the gospel and Jesus
- Specially for disciples

Before too long, Jesus moves onto the next shore and preaches to a more open crowd...

- Time to respond
- Have a fear of God that generates faith
- Faith leads to trust, obedience and PEACE (We inherit eternal life with God)

HOW HAVE WE RESPONDED TO JESUS THIS LAST 2 MONTHS