

Jesus Stills the Storm Mt 8:18, 23-27, Mk 4:35-41, Lk 8:22-25

Mk 4:35-41

v.36 leaving the crowds, they took Him along with them in the boat

v.38 Jesus was asleep in the stern

do you not care that we are perishing?

39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. **40** And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" **41** They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Questions:

1. Why is the detail important, that Jesus was in their boat, and there were other boats?
2. Don't we find it comforting when someone is in "the same boat" as us? How much more if that someone is the Son of God?
3. What does it say about Jesus that he was able to sleep in the midst of the storm? Was He just tired, or is there more to it (a calm demeanor in face of trouble, a rest despite the circumstances)?
4. From what their "crying out" to Jesus with the words "do you not care that we are perishing?," what did the disciples think Him being asleep meant?
5. How is this "stilling of the Storm" a good example of the choice between fear and faith? Why did Jesus so often tell his hearers "do not fear"?

Mk 5:36 But Jesus, overhearing what was being spoken, said to the synagogue official, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe."

Lk 12:22-26 "Do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

Jn 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Rev 1:17 Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.'

Jesus Walk on Water Mt 14:22-33, Mk 6:45-51, Jn 6:15-21

Mt 14:22,23 Jesus sends the disciples ahead of Him, He gets alone to pray

v. 24 by the time He finishes praying, the boat is a long distance away, and in duress

v.25 in the 4<sup>th</sup> watch of night 3am-6am

v.26 it is a ghost!

v.27 take courage, it is I, don't be afraid

v.28 Peter's test-if it is You, command me to come to You on the water

v.30 seeing the wind, he became frightened

Questions:

1. Why does Jesus let the boat get so far away? Was He so absorbed He didn't notice, or was He trying to demonstrate something about His power?
2. What is significant about the time of day being night?
3. Why does Peter feel he must test whether this "appearance" is really Jesus?
4. How does "seeing the wind" increase the chance of "becoming frightened?"
5. Matthew says those in the boat worshipped Jesus (v.33). Mark says they were "utterly astonished," but had not gained any insight from the feeding miracle (Mk 6:33-44); rather, their hearts were hard. (v.51-52) Is there a consistency between the way these writers record the response? Does astonishment lead to worship?

Conclusions and common threads:

1. When Jesus is in the boat (when God is your refuge), you can choose faith over fear

Mk 6:50 take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!

Deut 3:22 Do not be afraid of them; the Lord your God himself will fight for you."

Isaiah 41:10 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Two "Do not's," 2 "I am's," 3 "I will's," 2 "surely's." 2 for me, 7 for God!

Is 41:13 "For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'

Is 43:1 But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!

2. Our eyes need to be on Jesus, not the circumstance standing in our way, because He is greater than any circumstance we face.

Peter was moving toward Jesus, but got distracted by the waves

Mt 14:29 And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. **30** But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" **31** Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Mk 4:41 They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.