

## Mark 4:35-41

<sup>35</sup> As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." <sup>36</sup> So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). <sup>37</sup> But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. <sup>38</sup> Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" <sup>39</sup> When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" <sup>41</sup> The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!" (NLT)

<sup>35</sup> Ese día al anochecer, les dijo a sus discípulos: —Crucemos al otro lado. <sup>36</sup> Dejaron a la multitud y se fueron con él en la barca donde estaba. También lo acompañaban otras barcas. <sup>37</sup> Se desató entonces una fuerte tormenta, y las olas azotaban la barca, tanto que ya comenzaba a inundarse. <sup>38</sup> Jesús, mientras tanto, estaba en la popa, durmiendo sobre un cabezal, así que los discípulos lo despertaron. —¡Maestro! —gritaron—, ¿no te importa que nos ahogemos? <sup>39</sup> Él se levantó, reprendió al viento y ordenó al mar: —¡Silencio! ¡Cálmate! El viento se calmó y todo quedó completamente tranquilo. <sup>40</sup> —¿Por qué tienen tanto miedo? —dijo a sus discípulos—. ¿Todavía no tienen fe? <sup>41</sup> Ellos estaban espantados y se decían unos a otros: —¿Quién es éste, que hasta el viento y el mar le obedecen? (NVI)

### Notes:

#### A. Jesus is Lord of Nature!

- a. Nature is powerful, unpredictable, and at times dangerous.
  - i. We cannot control it!
    1. We cannot stop an earthquake, volcano, hurricane, tornado, blizzard, etc.
    2. We cannot make it rain if we are in a drought.
    3. The best we can do is try to survive nature.
  - b. After Jesus finished teaching parables to the crowd, He and His disciples set out on a boat in the Sea of Galilee. They were traveling to the other side of the sea (which is really a lake).
    - i. During this trip, a fierce storm suddenly developed. The storm was so bad that:
      1. The boat began sinking!
      2. Some of the disciples were fishermen and veteran boatmen; they were even scared, because they understood from experience that this storm was going to sink them, and they were going to drown.
    - ii. Surprisingly, Jesus was sleeping!
      1. The disciples woke Him up, and were a little critical of Him.
      2. Jesus, with just words, stilled the storm. The storm immediately stopped!
  - c. This may remind us of Jonah from the Old Testament.
    - i. There are some similarities between Mark's account of Jesus and Jonah:
      1. A fierce storm,
      2. Jesus and Jonah are asleep during it,
      3. The others on the boats are afraid and critical of Jesus and Jonah
      4. There are more similarities that you can notice.
    - ii. There are also some important **differences**:
      1. Jonah is running away from God's purposes. Jesus is following God's purposes.
      2. Jonah gets thrown overboard and the crew prays to God to save them, then God stills the storm. Jesus doesn't pray to God; Jesus stills the storm! Nature obeys Jesus.
  - d. In the Old Testament, only God had control over nature: storms, wind, and waves. We can observe the same thing today: only God could possibly speak and have a storm obey—stop.
    - i. Jesus did this. **Jesus did what only God can do.**

#### B. The disciples' reaction:

- a. They were terrified! They were afraid during the storm, because they had no control over it or what it would do to them. But Jesus has control over the storm! This left them beyond afraid—they were terrified—they were filled with awe.
  - i. To realize that Jesus/God has power over everything is terrifying, but it is appropriate. If we are not in awe or fear of God, we really don't have an accurate understanding of God or humanity. We are either thinking too lowly of God or too highly of humanity (or both).
    1. To fear God is appropriate, but also incredibly liberating: If God has power and control over everything, and if we are with God, then we have nothing to fear. To fear God is to fear nothing else!
  - ii. There was no need for the disciples to fear the storm, not because it wasn't real and dangerous, nor because they were not mortal, but because they were with Jesus, and Jesus is Lord over nature.
- b. They didn't demonstrate faith that Jesus could save them, because they still, at this point, don't really know who He is. This is an example of why they need to continue to be around Jesus and be open minded, so they can learn about Him by what He teaches and does. Remember discipleship is primarily being with Jesus.
- c. This event forced the disciples to deeply consider the question: "Who is this man"? They witnessed storms obeying him...no man could do this, but Jesus did, so what does that say about Jesus—He is not just a man.

- i. They could not deny what Jesus did.
  - ii. They could not deny that only God could do what Jesus did.
  - iii. Therefore, they were forced to seriously consider “Who is Jesus?”.
  - iv. The only answer that makes any sense is: Jesus is God. They, along with many others, will realize this and believe it. This fact will change their lives.
  - v. We are also faced with the the same question, and we also will have to answer the question: Who is Jesus?
- d. This was a terrifying event for the disciples, but it was an event that revealed something amazing about Jesus to them—they witnessed Him do something that only God could do! They will have more moments like this—and these moments will redefine their lives.