

THE GOSPEL OF MARK Storms



Mark 4:35-41 (NIV)

⁽³⁵⁾ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ⁽³⁶⁾ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ⁽³⁷⁾ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ⁽³⁸⁾ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ⁽³⁹⁾ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁽⁴⁰⁾ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁽⁴¹⁾ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

FACTS: BOAT & LAKE

- *The Sea of Galilee lies nearly 700 feet below seal level in a basin surrounded by hills and mountains that especially precipitous on the east side. 30 miles northeast Mt. Hermon rises to 9,200 feet above sea level. The interchange between cold upper air from Mt. Hermon and warm air rising for the Sea of Galilee produces tempestuous weather conditions for which the lake is famed.
- *The stern of the boat in 1986 a discovery was made in the sea of Galilee of a boat 26.5 feet long, 7.5 feet wide and 4.5 feet deep with an elevated high stern, a place for 4 rowers, two on each side and is dated between 120 B.C. and A.D. 40. (Wachsmann 1988).

SLEEPING JESUS

- *The only time we hear of Jesus in the gospels sleeping is during storms.
- ***Jesus was not surprised by the storm.** Not the storm that surrounded him then or the storm that surrounds you now.

***Would things change in the disciples minds if they knew that they had set to sea with the one who called it into existence? Does that truth change your mind?**

Jesus, don't you care . . .
 ...that my child is sick?
 ...that my marriage is falling apart?
 ...that my friends have deserted me?
 ...that I have no money?
 ...that I feel so alone?
 ...that I want to give up?
 ...that my spouse has died?
 ...that I lost my job?

"DON'T YOU CARE?"

- *They charged him with indifference
- *God's compassion is not measured by our circumstances. His kindness is not limited to our understanding of what is going on around us.

DISCIPLES FAITH

*Jesus asked "how is it possible?" The creator and sustainer of the universe was with them in the boat. They still did not get who this 'mystery

If he can calm the storm when people lack faith what can he do when we show it?

*Faith here refers to faith in the divine power present in Jesus' person. Can they put their faith, their utter dependence on Jesus - to be their refuge and strength?

Psalms 46:1-3, Isaiah 51:12-16

- *Lacking is a practical confidence in supernatural power
- *This miracle was not just displaying the power of Jesus but was showing the disciples that he is the Savior in the midst of intense peril. Compare Isaiah 43:1-12

"WHO IS THIS? "

- *Literally means "they feared a great fear."
- ***Jesus did what only God can do.** Genesis 8:1, Job 26:11-12, Psalms 18:15, 65:7, 74:13-15, 104:4-9, 106:9, 107:25-20, Isaiah 50:2, 51:9-10, Nahum 1:3-4.
- *The miracle of the storm does not teach us how to endure adversity patiently because Jesus will immediately or eventually eliminate the problem. There are no **STORMLESS SEAS**. Chaos will hit our lives and they come quickly.

1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

⁽¹²⁾ Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.

- *There are no safe places in life, and one can only find security with Jesus and a serenity that Jesus has done battle with the strong man and has won. He has beaten down the savage storm, and one has no reason to fear anything from nature or the supernatural, from life or death. Romans 8:31-39.
- *Christianity is not a refuge from the uncertainties and insecurities of the world.
- *Sometimes storms in life come because of stupid sinful choices that we have made and then other times because we are exactly where Jesus wants us . . . with him in the boat. 1 Peter 4:12

"I'll tell you how to look at it. Haven't you noticed how, in our own little war here on earth, there are different phases, and while any one phase is going on people get into the habit of thinking and behaving as if it were going to be permanent? But really the thing is changing under your hands all the time, and neither your assets nor your dangers are the same as the year before." C. S. Lewis

TRUTHS TO REMEMBER

- *The boat will not sink; it cannot sink when the Master of ocean, earth and sky is in it.
- *The storm will not last forever. (Ray Stedman)

"One moment all is well, then in a flash, all is hell."