

## Mark 4: 35-41 (ESV) – Jesus Calms the Storm

**Main point:** The Lord is not asleep; he is with us, and he will calm our storms.

**Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.**

**Background:** Jesus has been teaching large crowds and his disciples by the Sea of Galilee.

### Focus of the study:

<sup>35</sup> On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” <sup>36</sup> And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. <sup>38</sup> 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?” <sup>39</sup> 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. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” <sup>41</sup> 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?”

### Questions:

1. *What have Jesus and the disciples been doing? What time is it now? How do you think they might be feeling?*
  - a. Jesus has been teaching huge crowds out by the seaside (giving access to the poor people); lots of effort for all of them.
  - b. They are probably all exhausted!
2. *What does Jesus say at the end of the day? Why do you think they might go to the other side?*
  - a. “Let’s go across the lake.”
  - b. Possibly because there are more people on the other side to teach and heal.
3. *v. 37: What happens when they’re out in the middle of the lake? How bad is it?*
  - a. A great windstorm arose
  - b. Waves are breaking into the boat and filling it up
    - i. *What happens when a boat fills up with water??*
      1. Yikes ....
4. *How would you be reacting if you were one of the disciples? Does anyone know what several of these disciples used to do as a job, before following Jesus?*
  - a. Several were fishermen ... so they know the dangers of this kind of storm.
  - b. Terrified! “We’re going to drown!”
5. *v. 38: And what is Jesus doing at this time?*
  - a. Snoozing in the stern!
    - i. *How tired do you think he must have been to be asleep in this kind of storm?*
6. *What do the disciples do at this point? What do they say?*
  - a. They wake up Jesus

- b. "Do you not CARE that we are PERISHING??"
  - i. Why do you think they say this? Do they ask him to do anything?
    - 1. No; they want him to know they're dying
    - 2. Sounds a bit like scolding! Some anger
- 7. v. 39: *And what is Jesus' response? What does he say first?*
  - a. He wakes up and rebukes the storm: "Peace! Be still!"
  - b. *What happens?*
    - i. The wind ceases; "and there was a great calm."
    - ii. The threat ceases, becomes silent.
    - iii. Let's try to picture that; imagine the sound and the scene suddenly shifting so dramatically ...
- 8. v. 40: *Then what does Jesus say?*
  - a. "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"
  - b. *Does that seem like a fair question to you? Shouldn't they have been afraid? What in their situation caused them fear? What were they focused on?*
    - i. Circumstances! They were focused on the wind, the water, the sinking boat. So of course they were afraid; a natural human reaction to those circumstances.
  - c. *Again, Jesus says "Have you still no faith?" I wonder what he means by that? How long have they been with Jesus? What have they seen him do so far?*
    - i. They have been with him for a long time now; they have seen lots of healings and teachings of Jesus, day after day after day.
    - ii. *But up until now, what do they think he can't do?*
      - 1. Control the weather; that is GOD'S realm.
- 9. v. 41: *What is the disciples' reaction?*
  - a. "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?'" Who IS this guy??
  - b. *Who are they talking to?*
    - i. Each other – they are stunned.
  - c. *They start out afraid of what? And then what do they fear in the end?*
    - i. First, the storm; then, the power of Jesus himself.
- 10. *Who here knows what it feels like to be in a storm, either a real storm or a storm of trials and tribulations? A situation where you feel like you might drown?*
- 11. *When you feel overwhelmed, does it ever feel to you like Jesus is asleep?*
  - a. We may feel at our wits' end, as if nothing and no one can help.
  - b. When a storm is raging and deafens our ears to anything else, look to Jesus. He cares and he calms!
  - c. *Where is Jesus in this story? Is he absent, far away from the fearful disciples?*
    - i. He's WITH THEM, in the boat.
  - d. *You know that saying, "we're all in the same boat"? Where is the Lord when you feel like he's not paying attention?*
    - i. He's right there in the boat with you.
- 12. Ask for prayer requests for today.
- 13. Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.

14. End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace