

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Text: Mark 4:35-41

Introduction:

1. My dad was in the Navy on board an aircraft carrier in the Pacific

- a. He told me about times in South China sea when the water was so calm it was like glass
- b. But there were other times, when storms were so violent, the waves crashed OVER the flight deck of the Aircraft carrier—which was 55 ft above the water line.

2. Being Caught in the Middle of a Storm is Terrifying...

- a. and this is the desperate situation the Disciples are caught in

I. THE SITUATION

A. THE STORM (v.35-37)

1. **It was evening (v.35) and a fierce storm has hit the sea of Galilee [map]**
 - a) The Sea of Galilee is 682 ft below sea level,
 - b) Surrounded on the east & west by hills that rise as high as 2000 ft above sea level
 - c) Intersected by plains and gorges that function as funnels for the velocity of wind
2. **And when the perfect conditions converge—it creates the perfect storm!**

B. THE FEAR (v.37-38)

1. **These were experienced fishermen and skilled sailors...**
 - a) They had grown up on the sea of Galilee
2. **But these experienced fishermen are Filled with Fear!**
 - a) Frightened to the point they think they might actually die in the storm!
 - b) They their boats may capsize and They would Drown
3. **Fear Paralyzes Faith—**
 - a) Fear is Like a Stranglehold—choking the life out of us
 - b) Suffocating the hope from our hearts
 - c) Fear also questions God: “Don’t you care that we are perishing?”

C. THE SAVIOR (v.38-41)

1. **It is evening and Jesus is so tired He is sleeping in the boat!**
 - a) He had spent the entire day dealing with the false accusations of the Pharisees, teaching the people and healing the sick
 - b) The constant demand of the multitudes & emotional toll of teaching was exhausting
“Never did a ship carry a more precious burden than that one. What a wonderful mingling of deity and humanity (seen) in this display of supernatural power. Because of the limitations of His humanity, He, who never sleeps, had need of the rest and refreshment of sleep. But as God, He arose from sleep and rebuked the storm.” (Lockyer)

2. **He Rebuked the Wind, and said to the Sea, “Peace, be still!”**

- a) and the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

3. It's hard for us, 2000 yrs later, to be there...

- a) In the same storm, and the same boat as the disciples and Jesus were
 - b) But for those in that storm—There was no doubt about Jesus power over Nature
 - c) Jesus Literally commanded the wind and waves to stop with a Command!
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II. THE REALIZATION

Notice there are basically 3 series of questions—with 3 important implications

A. 'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?'

1. **Fear Causes Doubt—We start to doubt everything...**

- a) Even to the point of Doubting God's care and concern

2. **As individual human beings we have a desperate need for 2 things...**

- a) FIRST: that we are worth something,
- b) SECOND: that we are going to have what we need.

3. **This is the Human Need for SIGNIFICANCE and SECURITY**

- a) Most of Our Time and Energy is Spent Pursuing These
- b) And We Get Quite Creative in Our Pursuits
- c) But God is the **Only True Source** of Significance and Security

4. **But When Storms Come and Our Homemade Rickety Scaffolding we've created for a Life Foundation Begins to Crumble....**

- a) Who do We Question? —God!
- b) Where's God? Why Doesn't He Answer? Why Doesn't God Do What I Want?
- c) I'm in a storm here... I might drown here! —Don't You Care?

5. **Peter was there in that storm, and look at what he tells us (1 Peter 5:6–8)**

B. 'Why Are You So Fearful? How is it you have no faith?'

1. **Fear is a powerful emotion...**

- a) It can be used for good or it can paralyze our faith with a choke-hold
- b) The greek word for Anxiety literally means to be pulled apart
- c) Our hopes pull us one way—and our fears pull us another

2. **At The Heart of Anxiety is Fear—and At the Heart of Fear is Our Focus**

- a) When we focus on the storms—we have fear
- b) When we focus on the Lord—we have peace (**Isaiah 26:3**)

3. **Jesus asked them—why are you so fearful? where is your faith?**

“Fear imprisons, faith liberates; fear paralyzes, faith empowers; fear disheartens, faith encourages; fear sickens, faith heals; fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable, and most of all, fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life, while faith rejoices in God.”

(Harry Emerson Fosdick)

C. **'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?'**

1. **They Were Afraid Before—But Now They Are Really Afraid! (v.41)**
 - a) The Fear of Deep Reverence and Awe from Realizing—
—they were in the Very Presence of the Lord! (**Psalm 89:7–9**)
2. **The Realization in that Storm was the Realization of Who Jesus Truly is!**
 - a) **If God came to earth in Human form we would expect certain things:**
 - (1) **We would expect a unique miraculous entry into human history**
(He did in the incarnation—being born of a virgin)
 - (2) **We would expect He would live a perfect life without Sin**
(Jesus lived a perfect sinless life)
 - (3) **We would expect He would have power over all of Creation**
(Power over the forces of Nature, Disease, Demons and Death)
Jesus calmed the storm, healed the sick, cast out demons and brought the dead back to life)
 - (4) **We Would Expect He Would Speak the Greatest Words Ever Spoken**
 - (a) **Bernard Ramm:** Statistically speaking, the Gospels are the greatest literature ever written. They are read by more people, quoted by more authors, translated into more tongues, represented in more art, set to more music, than any other book or books written by any man in any century in any land. But the words of Christ are not great on the grounds that they have such a statistical edge over anybody else's words.
They are read more, quoted more, loved more, believed more, and translated more because they are the greatest words ever spoken. And where is their greatness? Their greatness lies in the pure, lucid spirituality in dealing clearly, definitively, and *authoritatively* with the greatest problems that throb in the human breast; namely, Who is God? Does He love Me? What should I do to please Him? How does He look at my sin? How can I be forgiven? Where will I go when I die? How must I treat others?
No other man's words have the appeal of Jesus' words because no other man can answer these fundamental human questions as Jesus answered them. They are the kind of words and the kind of answers we would expect God to give, and we who believe in Jesus' deity have no problem as to why these words came from His mouth. (Ramm; Evidence that Demands a Verdict)
 - (5) **We Would Expect that He Would Have a Lasting Effect in History**
 - (a) Jesus said, **heaven and earth will pass away,**
but My words will never pass away
 - (b) “**His words have passed into law, they have passed into doctrines, they have passed into proverbs, they have passed into consolations, but they have never ‘passed away.’** What human teacher ever dared to claim an eternity for his words?”
(Maclean; Evidence that Demands a Verdict)
 - (6) **We Would Expect He Would Have the Answers to our Deepest Questions and Solutions to our Greatest Problems**
 - (7) **We Would Expect He Would Overcome Our Greatest Enemies—
Satan, Sin and Death**
(Adapted: Josh McDowell, Evidence)

3. **'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?'**

The Lord of Heaven and Earth! The Word that Became Flesh!

III. THE APPLICATIONS

A. WE ARE NOT EXEMPT FROM THE STORMS OF LIFE

1. THERE ARE HEALTH CRISIS STORMS...

- a) Who would've thought a virus from a city in China would cause a Pandemic that affected the whole world?

2. ECONOMIC STORMS...

- a) Times when some loose everything—totally wiped out

3. EMOTIONAL STORMS

- a) When you can't understand why you feel so low, so alone or so scared (**Ps 42:9,11**)

4. RELATIONSHIP STORMS

- a) Feelings are hurt, Relationships cut off, Silence, bitter cold between souls

5. SPIRITUAL STORMS

- a) Storms of fear and doubt... like the disciples: "Lord don't you care?"

- b) Jonah Experienced a Literal & Spiritual Storm

"Jonah ended up in a storm because of his disobedience, but the disciples got into a storm because of their obedience to the Lord." (Wiersbe)

- c) **Paul Faced Many Storms (2 Cor. 11:25-26)**

- d) Jesus Did Not Make Us Except from the Storms of Life...

- e) But Promised He Would Be With Us in the Storms of Life

B. CHRIST HELPS US THROUGH THE STORMS

1. Through FAITH (**Psalm 46:1-3; 10-11**)

2. Through HIS WORD (**Matthew 7:24-27**)

3. Through PRAYER (**Phil 4:6-7**)

4. Through HIS SACRIFICE —

- a) the Greatest Storm All of us will face will be the day of Judgement

- b) But Jesus Shed His Blood to Rescue Us From that Storm (**Romans 5:8-9**)

- c) **'there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!' (Rom. 8:1)**

C. CHRIST OFFERS US PEACE EVEN IN THE STORMS

1. Peace in Storms of Sorrow

2. Peace in the Storms of Life's Problems

3. Peace in Storms of Anxiety

4. Because He Gives Us Peace with God! (**Colossians 1:19-20**)

5. With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible!

CONCLUSION:

1. Remember, the Storms of life exist NOT destroy you, but develop you
2. At the Heart of Anxiety is Fear, and at the heart of Fear is our Focus
3. If Your Focus is on God—He Will Give You Peace! (**Isaiah 26:3**)

JESUS: In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world!