

Series: **The Jesus Journey**

Ruth- Diagnosed with cancer (She's 32). Since she'll be off work she sold her truck;
as she's coming back from selling her new f150 she's informed- her only remaining car was crashed
The next day I pick her up for her first surgery- notice tires stolen, gas guzzled, window shot
"I guess this is what happens when you renew your faith"

Title: **When Storms Suddenly Arise**

Text: **Mark 4:35-41**

Q: *Have you ever been blindsighted by storms in life?*

Death; Disease; Betrayal; Heartbreak; Job loss; Marital Conflict; Separation; Abandonment;
Unexpected expenses; Accident; Legal trouble; etc.

'One minute all is well, then, in a flash, all is hell'

The disciples are about to find themselves in a storm that seemingly comes out of nowhere
There are lessons for us to gather

So far Jesus has been teaching of the good news, baffling religious leaders, performing miracles, healing the sick,
casting out and rebuking demons.

The crowds flocked to Him, so he teaches from a boat (Look up 'Sowers Cove')

Mark 4:35-41 On that day, when evening had come, he told them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the sea."

³⁶ So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him.

³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher! Don't you care that we're going to die?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Silence! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ Then he said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ And they were terrified and asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

Before we move on to any practical application or lessons that relate to us, we have to address the main point of why Mark has included this event in this Gospel

It is this truth that will anchor any direct application we can make to us-

Jesus is, at the same time, Human and Divine

The Bible doesn't present Jesus as a man, who was a *good* man, a *powerful* man, a *wise* man- yet only man
And neither does it present God as a Deity who is good, powerful and wise- yet distant or disconnected

In the person of Jesus this great paradox exists: **Full and true humanity, full and true divinity** (not 50/50)

Verse **35** reminds us "**On THAT day**"...a long, tiring day of teaching and ministry, "**when evening had come**"
On THAT day, verse **38** tells us that Jesus was "**sleeping on the cushion**"

He was exhausted. He was sleepy. He was human!

Hebrews 4:14-15 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵ **For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses**, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.

AND He was God. Verse **39** tells us “He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Silence! Be still!” The wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”

There had been a GREAT storm suddenly...and then, at His command, suddenly a GREAT calm

Even ancient societies attributed that only God had power over the weather

Psalms 89:8-9 Lord God of Armies, who is strong like you, Lord? Your faithfulness surrounds you.⁹ You rule the raging sea; when its waves surge, you still them.

Psalms 107:29 He stilled the storm to a whisper, and the waves of the sea were hushed.

Mark is revealing to us readers that **Jesus is A MAN, who is so sleepy He can sleep through a storm, and at the same time, He is THE ALMIGHTY LORD, who is so Sovereign He can shut the storm up!**

It's important to understand, Jesus is not *part* God, but the fullness of God!

Colossians 2:9 For **the entire fullness** of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ

That is the main treasure from this text: **Jesus is, at the same time, Human and Divine.**

BUT WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT WE FIRST GRAB ON TO THAT?

Because if you truly understand who Jesus is, it will relieve the tension between these two realities:

Life's storms are inevitable.

Jesus' peace is available.

Let me speak to each of those two certainties:

LIFE'S STORMS ARE INEVITABLE

In the book by Tolkien, L.O.T.R., a wizard, Gandalf, is explaining to a hobbit, Frodo, that there is a great danger and evil that is coming for them.

FRODO: *I wish it need not have happened in my time.*

GANDALF: *So do I, and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide.*

All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.

You don't have to be a wizard to know, there are no stormless seas.

Some storms come as the result of our wrong decisions

These we can usually understand, although they may still be difficult to navigate
we know why- we blew it; we messed up (DUI, the Debt, etc)

But some storms come as a result of being in the will of God

There are certain problems, pressures, tensions, stresses, agonies, that surfaced *because*
you did the right thing/ you valued the way of righteousness/ you are where you're supposed to be!

Mark 4:35-38 On that day, when evening had come, **he told them**, “Let's cross over to the other side of the sea.”

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³⁷ **A great windstorm arose**, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher! Don't you care that we're going to die?”

It was Jesus who placed the disciples there; their obedience led them into the storm
They were exactly where He planned for them to be..... and he was sleeping.

Have you ever been in a similar situation?

'I'm doing what you've asked me to Lord, And it's a disaster! And by the way, where are You?'

Isaiah 51:9 Wake up, wake up! Arm of the Lord, clothe yourself with strength. Wake up as in days past, as in generations long ago... (some of us have prayed those kind of prayers. Some of you are praying those presently)

If the disciples were not spared from the storm, don't think we will be.

Anyone with eyes and ears can attest that- **Bad things happen to godly people too**

Valeen Schnurr @ Columbine High- begged to God after getting shot- Shooter came back and asked, "Do you believe in God?" She affirmed & was shot as she tried to crawl away (survived miraculously)

Jesus' presence in the boat did not prevent the storm; But...His silence did not indicate a lack of care

Life's storms are *inevitable*, but in the storm, **JESUS' PEACE IS AVAILABLE**

The peace of a man who knows what it's like to suffer, and therefore knows perfectly how to help sufferers.
The peace of God which surpasses all understanding (**Philippians 4:7**) and reaches deep into stormy souls.

Psalms 46:1-3 God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is **always found** in times of trouble.

²Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas, ³though its water roars and foams and the mountains quake with its turmoil.

God's proximity is the antidote against fear:

Trouble in life-

John 16:33 I have told you these things so that **in me** you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.

Others let you down-

2 Timothy 4:16-17 At my first defense, no one stood by me, but everyone deserted me. May it not be counted against them. ¹⁷**But the Lord stood with me** and strengthened me, so that I might fully preach the word and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

Financial trouble-

Hebrews 13:5 Keep your life free from the love of money. Be satisfied with what you have, for he himself has said, **I will never leave you or abandon you.**

There are storms that rage around us which God may or may not calm.
But as far as the storm that arises within us, *those* He has promised to soothe.

There the disciples are being tossed about. The boat was taking on water!

We can understand why they are freaked out. Why shouldn't they!

Well...because of verse **35** "...he told them, **"Let's cross over to the other side of the sea."**

Though they called Him teacher, they had not yet fully grasped His teaching- therefore they hadn't yet understood this truth:

His word is trustworthy.

It is the storm which reveals the holes in the armor= their lack of faith

Mark 4:40 Then he said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

life’s storms reveal where we lack faith, and, in that space, Jesus invites us to renew our trust in Him
whatever storm you may find yourself in, ask yourself: *DO I REALLY TRUST GOD HERE?*

Notice, *how did they lack faith?*They questioned if He cared for them

In verse 38 “...So they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher! **Don’t you care** that we’re going to die?”

Perhaps you have been there too, wondering, considering everything happening to you, does God care?

He didn’t save the marriage; He didn’t heal child; He didn’t calm the storm

Jesus does care. And He cares much more than we can fathom.

It would take some time, but eventually, one of the men on the boat who questioned if Jesus cared, would go on to write

“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.” **1 Peter 5:7 (NIV)**

When we understand that Jesus is a *man* who understands, and *the Lord* who is in control, and that He does care, then we will reach a point when we can truly say-

I’ll take the storms with the Savior over peace away from His presence any day

Give me the storm if that’s where He is, because I know He cares, & if He has me here, I trust 2 things:
He knows better, and I’m not alone

A word of caution:

The temptation will be to run for stillness from the storm, at the cost of nearness to the Savior

Many have walked away from Jesus instead of trust Him through the trial.

Some for a season, some forever.

DON’T. Find refuge IN HIM, not away from Him

A great storm (v37) A great calm (v39) A great fear (v41)

Mark 4:31 And they were terrified and asked one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

When Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples did not become less afraid, but more

They first feared the power of the storm; but then the one who had power to muzzle the storm

The narrative ends with a question, but without an explicit answer given. “Who then is this?”

The answer is obvious-

this Jesus is the God-man who has power and authority over all of life

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²We have also obtained access through him by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of the glory of God.

³And not only that, but we also boast in our **afflictions**, because we know that affliction produces endurance, ⁴endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. ⁵This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

If you find yourself going through a storm, let me remind you, God's Spirit is with you. Very near.

Don't lose hope, because, **no storm lasts forever.**

The next verse reads **Mark 5:1** They came to the other side of the sea...

He can bring you through

*******CALL UP WORSHIP TEAM**

Verse 36 has a seemingly obscure detail. It tells us that *there were other boats*.

The storm comes to all.

The question is not: *how do we avoid storms?*

The question we should be asking is this: ***Is Jesus is in your boat?***

GOSPEL PRESENTATION & INVITATION

BULPEN-

Psalm 104:7 At your rebuke the water fled; at the sound of your thunder they hurried away—

Psalm 106:9 He rebuked the Red Sea, and it dried up; he led them through the depths as through a desert.

I think of people in the Bible- Job, Joseph, David- whom it seemed as if God hurled them into struggles

This section begins a series in which Jesus demonstrates His power over the forces of demons, nature, and death

Each of the characters are driven by desperation

The disciples, the man possessed by an army, the woman with an illness, and the father of a dead Child

Ironically the same ones who cannot believe Jesus could sleep now, would themselves not be able to fight off sleep in the garden of Gethsemane when Jesus asked them three times to remain awake and pray

If this is what Jesus can do with those who lack faith, imagine what He will do with those who show great faith!

Isaiah 43 compared to Mark

Storms of sorrow, problems, anxiety, illness, doubts

The real tragedy and danger isn't the storm itself, but our lack of faith in the One who controls all things

Spurgeon- *"storms help to make the sailors sturdy"*

2 Samuel 22:5-7 For the waves of death engulfed me; the torrents of destruction terrified me.

⁶The ropes of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.

⁷I called to the Lord in my distress; I called to my God.

From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry for help reached his ears.

2 Samuel 22:17 He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he pulled me out of deep water.

2 Samuel 22:31-33 God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is pure.

He is a shield to all who take refuge in him.

³²For who is God besides the Lord? And who is a rock? Only our God.

³³God is my strong refuge; he makes my way perfect.

The Christian life is not easy. It is not storm free. It will rain on you. It will feel like you're sinking.

"Trials make us complete (James 1:2-4).

Trials produce perseverance, character, and hope (Romans 5:3-4).

Trials purify us (1 Peter 1:6-8)."

When we scare we doubt God's care

Youtube video: 'AMAZING Sound Experiment at the Cove of the Sower'

'Our faith doesn't bend around our situation—our situation bends around our faith.'