

Series: The Gospel of Mark
"Calming the Storm" # 16
Mark 4:35-41
4-30-17 Sun AM

Our hearts have been stirred by 5 revival messages, now its time to get back to the teaching of God's Word to equip and mature saints.

The miracle in this passage is **not** having Jesus in your boat of life and everything will be okay. This passage is about the Creator working in our lives.

Two background thoughts-

1. The teaching of Jesus.

"The same day" (v. 35) refers to the day on which Jesus gave the "parables of the kingdom" (4:3-24). He had been teaching His disciples the Word and now He would give them a practical test to see how much they had really learned. The hearing of God's Word is intended to produce faith and faith must always be tested.

It is not enough for us merely to learn a lesson or be able to repeat a teaching. We must also be able to practice that lesson by faith, and that is one reason why God permits trials to come to our lives.

2. The miracles of Jesus.

Jesus performed miracles to display his power over creation, demons, diseases, and death. This miracles in our text is another opportunity in which the supernatural power of Jesus was displayed.

The disciples knew of His divine power yet they were not fully prepared for his display of omnipotence over his creation.

TT- Jesus leads the Disciples into a storm as a test of faith and we learn two simple truths about storms.

I. Jesus knows the storms are coming (4:35-37).

Yes, He does! The storm was a part of that day's events that He orchestrated for a reason.

The disciples were in a classroom and they would be taught a lesson that they did not even know they needed to learn: Jesus can be trusted in the storms of life.

The location of the Sea of Galilee [Gennesart] is such that sudden violent storms are not unusual. The storm described here must have been especially fierce if it frightened experienced fishermen like the disciples.

We live in sin-cursed bodies in a sin-cursed world. Storms will happen!

I. Jesus knows the storms are coming (4:35-37).

II. We should not be afraid in the storms (4:38-41).

There were at least three good reasons why none of the men in the ship should have been afraid and we neither even though the situation appears to be life-threatening.

1. We have His Promise: He is taking us to the other side (v.35).

He did not promise an easy trip, but He did promise a guaranteed arrival at their destination. God never promised us a easy life with no detours. He promised us his presence in the midst of the storm.

Act 14:22, Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

This refers to **the kingdom of God** in its future aspect, when believers will share Christ's glory. A person enters **the kingdom of God** through the new birth, not tribulations.

Persecutions and **tribulations** do not have any saving value. However, those who **enter the kingdom of God** by faith are promised that the pathway to future glory is filled with **tribulations**.

"If indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Rom. 8:17). Sufferings and tribulation prove, perfect, and purify our faith.

God has promised to take us to heaven (other side). There may be times he heals us and comforts us, but ultimately we must shed this earthly body if we are to go to heaven.

1. We have His promise: He is taking us to the other side.
2. We have His presence: He is with us working (v. 38).

They had already seen His power demonstrated in His miracles, so they should have had complete confidence that He could handle the situation. For some reason, the disciples did not yet understand that He was indeed the Master of every situation.

We know something the world does not know about trials and suffering.

Romans 8:28-30, And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

"All things Work Together" It is God who makes "all things work together" in our lives "for good." The ultimate good of these hardships is their work in conforming believers to Christ's image in the end (Rom. 8:29).

What are the "all things?"

Rom 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1. We have His promise: He is taking us to the other side.
2. We have His presence: He is with us working.
3. We have His peace: He is at peace (vs. 38b-41).

This fact alone should have encouraged them. Jesus was in God's will and knew that the Father would care of Him, so He took a nap.

He arose and rebuked the storm, and immediately there was a great calm. But Jesus did not stop with the calming of the elements.

The greatest danger was not the wind, the waves or the storm: but it was the unbelief in the hearts of the disciples. Our greatest problems are within us, not around us.

It was their unbelief that caused their fear, and their fear made them question whether Jesus really cared. We must beware of "an evil heart of unbelief" (Heb. 3:12).

They already knew that He had the authority to forgive sins, to cast out demons, and to heal diseases. Now they discovered that He was in constant control of every situation (v. 41).

What is the point? Jesus arranges the storms and works them together to make us like Jesus. We have the promise of heaven; He is with us working his perfect plan. Remember, Jesus said "My peace I give you!"