

Series: God's Life-Changing Truth – Part 7

Mark 4:35-41 ESV

What Did Jesus Do with a Life-Threatening Storm?

Wednesday, March 11 at 11:00 & 7:00

Fourth Wednesday of Lent – 2015

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Sometimes life can *feel* out of control – as if God ➔ is not present with us or ➔ does not even exist. *But let's keep in mind that feelings can be deceptive!* Even though feelings are powerful, **God's Word of Truth is more powerful!** Therefore, whenever we have a conflict between *our feelings* and *God's Word*, **let us always go with God's Powerful Word!**

As we look at Mark chapter 4, it seems that the entire chapter took place on one particular day, which included *many parables*:

- ⇒ Jesus taught and explained the parable of the sower.
- ⇒ Jesus taught about our purpose: Those who have received Jesus (the True Light) should reflect Him.
- ⇒ Jesus taught about the blessings of generous giving.
- ⇒ Jesus taught about growth in God's kingdom: We scatter God's Word, *but He makes it sprout and grow.*
- ⇒ Jesus compared the kingdom of God to a mustard seed: It is very small, *but it grows very large.*

Then, *near the end of Mark chapter 4*, we come to a storm. So today's key question: What did Jesus do with a life-threatening storm? As we proceed through the text, Mark 4:35-41, let's also think about the storms of our lives – relational, financial, physical, emotional, spiritual, etc.

1. **The Setting:** ³⁵ **On that day** *[with many parables]*, **when evening had come, he** *[Jesus]* **said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."** ³⁶ **And leaving the crowd, they took him** *[Jesus]* **with them** *[His disciples]* **in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.**
 - a. The other side – Jesus and His disciples had been on the **western** shore of the Sea of Galilee, *which was mostly populated by Jews*. Their boat trip was to the **eastern** shore – *to the country of the Gerasenes*, where there were more Gentiles. Today that area is near the border of Jordan and Syria.
 - b. Just as he was – It seems that Jesus was preaching from the boat, *so He stayed in it to go across*. Also, let's think about the term *pulpit*: It is the railing at the bow of a boat *which sometimes extends past the deck of the boat*, so Jesus taught from a pulpit. Even now I am teaching from Bethlehem's pulpit *which extends past the deck of our chancel*.
2. **The Storm:** ³⁷ **And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.** ³⁸ **But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.**
 - a. Imagine being in that boat – The wind was *great*, so the waves were *great*; they were so great that they were *higher than the sides of the boat!* So the boat had been in the water but now the water was in the boat – *and the level was increasing!*

b. Imagine sleeping through it:

- i. As a loud noise would arouse us from a sound sleep, so *great wind* and *great waves* would naturally arouse most who were sleeping on an open boat from a sound sleep – *yet Jesus remained asleep.*
- ii. I think *His calm* points to *His trust* in His Father: Jesus had no concern for His safety or His life; He knew the Father was aware of the storm and would carry Him safely through. So, with the storms in our lives, may there always be: **Trust from us to God; peace from God to us.**

3. **The Question:** **And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”** // The storm was so great that the disciples, *some who were experienced fishermen*, were very concerned for their lives. They sensed that they were in the process of perishing or dying – *like someone extremely sick or wounded on a battlefield!* They must have reasoned: We have a great problem *and* the Lord is here, *yet* He isn’t taking any action to help us! Maybe we have wondered, sometimes, why God didn’t run to our rescue. Such thoughts are *normal* and *natural*, yet God wants us to *trust* and *be at peace.*

4. **The Miracle:** ³⁹ **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.** // Think about what happened: The Creator just spoke to His creation AND it obeyed – *the wind ceased and on the surface of*

the sea there was a great calm! As the winds and the waves obey, so we – *as God’s forgiven children through Jesus* – should do the same. Jesus said: **“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”** (John 14:15 ESV)

5. **The Response:**

- a. ⁴⁰ **He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”** ⁴¹ **And they were filled with great fear...** // Their *fear* showed their *lack of faith*, but Isaiah prayed: **“The steadfast of mind You [LORD] will keep in perfect peace, Because he trusts in You.”** (Isaiah 26:3 NAU) Faith has so many benefits, *both for this life and for our entrance into heaven!* Then Isaiah continued: **“Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.”** (Isaiah 26:4 NAU) So may our *unwavering* faith always **eliminate fear** and **result in peace!**
- b. **[they] said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”** // Their eyes were being opened more and more; Jesus is not merely **a good man**, **a great teacher**, or **the greatest of the prophets**, He is **God of God, light of light, very God of very God!** Therefore, *He is worthy of all of our trust!*

Conclusion: So what is the current storm of your life? No matter what it is: **Trust in the Lord**, **be at peace**, and **patiently wait for His rescue!** And all God’s people said: **Amen!**