

spirit behind that storm. But Jesus' authority was absolute whether the source was natural, or demonic because He is God incarnate.

After addressing the storm, Jesus spoke to the disciples. How did He interpret their response to the storm? The disciples' eyes were now open to the power and authority that Jesus held. Why do you think that terrified them rather than filling them with joy?

It can be tempting to keep Jesus at arms-length. It is more comfortable acknowledging Him as a great teacher or historical figure than it is to confront the reality that we are in the presence of the Almighty God. But it is good to have a reverential fear of God. This is the omnipotent, eternal, omniscient Creator of the Universe, who is sovereign over all things. But He is also our loving Savior who died for us and will weather the storms of life with us. And He invites you to learn from Him, rest in Him and trust Him with your life.

WRAP-UP

In this passage we see from Jesus' authority over the storm, that He is not only a great teacher but the one true God. As He calms the wind and waves with a command, He reveals His divine power, showing that He has control over both the natural world and supernatural forces. The disciples are beginning to realize the full magnitude of Jesus' identity. Jesus' is not indifferent to the storm's threat but is confident in the faithfulness of God the Father. The disciples' response to Jesus' power was fear which demonstrates their growing awareness of Jesus' divine nature. The passage shows us that Jesus is more than a good teacher or historical figure, He is the all-powerful, loving Savior who is with us through every storm of life.

MEMORY VERSE

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

- Mark 4:39 NIV

Challenge – Invite Jesus into the storms of your life. If there is something that feels threatening to your peace and safety, give Jesus a seat in your boat and know that even in the roughest times, He has the ultimate authority over your life.

Who Is Jesus? Gospel of Mark Ch. 4 - Week 3

INTRODUCTION

When asked who people think Jesus is (or was) most people willingly identify Him as a great teacher and an important historical figure, but they stop short of believing Jesus is the one true God. However, that is exactly what Mark is declaring to us in his Gospel. In this passage of scripture we watch as the disciples begin to realize that Jesus is indeed their Messiah as they witness His authority over the storm that threatens them.

Ice Breaker

Is there an experience, accomplishment or skill you have that most people don't know but would probably shock or amaze them?

Key Passages

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

- Mark 4:39 NIV

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Where are we going?

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. - Mark 4:35-36 NIV

Up to this point, Jesus had been teaching along the shores of Galilee. His disciples had been called, and they had committed to following Jesus. But now Jesus is about to leave the crowd in the Jewish territory and take His disciples to "the other side", Gentile territory where they would encounter the unclean and demonic.

Has Jesus ever taken you outside of your comfort zone? Perhaps it was on a mission trip, or an outreach of some type where you found yourself with people who were very different than you. Or maybe it was just a “divine appointment” that you found yourself encountering someone you knew God had put in your path? Do you think there were some opportunities you’ve avoided because they were just too uncomfortable?

When we commit our lives to Jesus, we are saying we will follow wherever He leads us. But when Jesus leads us into uncomfortable territory that commitment is put to the test. Luckily it is never once and done with Jesus. We can be sure that even if we fail to follow in one challenging situation, He will continue to give us opportunities that stretch our faith and grow us in the future. And each time we step out in faith, it becomes a little easier the next time.

2. What threatens us?

36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. - Mark 4:36-37 NIV

So, the disciples left behind what was comfortable and known and followed Jesus into unknown territory. Many of the disciples were fishermen and they should have no problem traveling across the Sea of Galilee in a boat. Nevertheless, they found themselves in a dangerous situation when a fierce storm overtook them threatening to swamp to boat.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. Genesis 1:2 NIV

Throughout the Bible we find the seas as a metaphor for chaos and evil. From Genesis 1, before there was dry land, the earth was described as “formless and empty” in the NIV translation. The Hebrew word for formless is tôû and can also be translated as “a place of chaos.” And empty is the word bôû which means “an undistinguishable ruin”

This is more than the description of the physical sea or storm; it is also a description of the spiritual storms we face in life. Even when

we try to stay in a safe place, the storms of life can overtake us wh incarnate. We can trust He has authority over and He cares about whatever threats we face as well.en we least expect them. For the disciples it was a hurricane. When has something unexpected suddenly threatened you? Was it a health issue, financial, relational, natural disaster? What was your immediate response? How and when did you involve God in your problem?

We naturally want to prepare ourselves for threats and disasters. That may involve taking precautions to keep us safe and healthy, or insurance to cover our potential losses. It is easy to believe that obedience to Jesus is a type of precaution or insurance policy that protects us from experiencing hardships in life. But as we see, while we experience those troubles in this world, we also have Jesus with us.

3. Does Jesus care?

In that little fishing boat amidst the storm, the disciples saw Jesus sleeping as their boat was sinking and so they asked, “Don’t you care if we drown?” The disciples did not yet recognize who Jesus was. But they would soon find out.

28 Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. 29 He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. 30 They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. 31 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. - Psalm 107:28-31 NIV

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” 41 They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” - Mark 4:39-41 NIV

Jesus was not sleeping out of indifference but out of assurance that God the Father was faithful to see that they arrive at the place He intended. This scene parallels Psalm 107. Rather than questioning Jesus’ concern, what was the response in Psalm 107 to the LORD who calmed the storm? After witnessing His power, what was the disciples’ response?

Jesus’ response to the wind and waves was the same as it was to the demonic spirit He confronted in Capernaum. Phimoō or “be muzzled” brought both to submission. This may indicate that there was an evil