

WHY ARE YOU AFRAID?

Mark 4: 35 - 41

SERMON SUMMARY...

As we continue to examine the questions that people asked Jesus, we are also faced with the questions Jesus asks of us. His response to our questions reflect not only his heart for us, but help reveal what's in our hearts.

This week, we observe that wrong assumptions about God lead to wrong conclusions and wrong questions. In the story found in Mark 4, the first wrong assumption comes from the underlying question which is, "Do you even care that...?" When unwelcome and unexpected storms show up in our lives, we see that even though Jesus is in the boat, He does not always prevent the storm from coming. Instead, He demonstrated that He is bigger than any storm. In fact, His power does not just impact us; it impacts those around us - either pointing towards Jesus or reflecting the chaos of the world. Storms often reveal what in our hearts hinder us from seeing, receiving, and experiencing God's heart for us. These storms can either help us face our fears and shortcomings and depend on God; or they can cause us to question and doubt.

We *will* experience storms, yet the biggest storm is that of eternal separation between God and man. Thankfully, Jesus showed how much He cares for us by dying on our behalf so that we can be forever in relationship with God.

A FEW QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

1. *Ice-breaker option:* Briefly describe a time when someone clearly demonstrated their care for you. What made this act of care so outstanding?
2. Read Mark 4:35-38. How was it possible that Jesus could sleep when he knew a storm was coming? Has there been a season or a storm in which you felt as though God was sleeping? What did this reveal about your belief in Jesus (ie: is indifferent to the storm? Uncaring? Unaware?)?
3. Read Mark 4:39. When Jesus calmed the storm, He proved that he has power and authority over any storm. How has this been true in your life?

4. Go back and read verse 36. Jesus did not just calm the storm for the disciples, but also for those who followed in other boats. In what ways has your reaction to the storms of life impacted those around? In what ways did your reaction point others toward or away from Jesus?

5. What lessons can be learned from being in the midst of the storm? In what ways have the storms in your life lead you to rely and depend on God, or to have doubt and question God?

6. Read Mark 4: 40-41. How would you answer Jesus' question? What are you afraid of, and how does this fear prevent you from putting your faith in Jesus?

BIBLICAL TEXT CITED...

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!" **Mark 4:35-41 (NLT)**

SERMON ONLINE...

<https://www.genesisthejourney.com/sermon/a-question-on-heart/>