

Introduction

1. In the past several lessons we have covered Mark 4:1-34, which contains four parables of Jesus that reveal as a powerful teacher who gives important details about the kingdom of God to His disciples.
 - a. Parable of the Sower/Soils (Mk 4:1-20)
 - b. Parable of the Lampstand and Measure (Mk 4:21-25)
 - c. Parable of the Growing Seed (Mk 4:26-29)
 - d. Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mk 4:30-34)
2. In the next section, Mark 4:35-5:43, we will witness four miracles of Jesus that reveal His power as the One bringing the kingdom of God and victory over death.
 - a. Victory over the natural realm and danger – Calming the Storm (Mk 4:35-41)
 - b. Victory over the spiritual realm and demons – Jesus and the Demoniac (Mk 5:1-20)
 - c. Victory over the physical realm and disease – A Woman Touches Jesus (Mk 5:21-34)
 - d. Victory over death – Jesus Raises a Dead Girl (Mk 5:35-43)
3. “*Victory is the major theme that bind this long section together*” (Warren Wiersbe, *Be Diligent*, 59).
4. I moved to Houston, TX in July 1982 after graduating from VT.
 - a. Coming from the mountains of WV, I had never experienced a Gulf Coast hurricane. It did take long for me to have that experience.
 - b. Just over a year after my move Hurricane Alicia pummeled the Texas coast near Houston with 115 mph winds as it made landfall on August 18, 1983.
 - c. I was 23 years old, alone, and hunkered down in my apartment as Alicia passed right over top of me.
 - d. I admit it was a bit scary, and I said some prayers! Alicia killed 21 people and caused several billion dollars’ damage.
 - e. A storm somewhat like Alicia blew up on Jesus and His disciples while they were out on a boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee.
 - f. Jesus was not afraid. In fact, He was asleep, but His disciples were wide awake and scared.
5. **Read Mk 4:35-41.**

A. Jesus Departs After Teaching (35-36)

1. Once again, Jesus ended a busy time of teaching by departing from the crowd.
 - a. He and his disciples were in need of some rest.
 - b. This is a pattern Jesus has followed before in Mark—ministry-retreat-rest (cf, Mk 1:35, 2:13).
2. Jesus said, “Let us go over to the other side” (35).
 - a. Jesus referred to the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee opposite from the western side near Capernaum.
 - b. In Mark 5:1 Jesus and his disciples arrived “in the region of the Gerasenes” on the eastern shore.
3. He left in haste after his time of teaching. Jesus went “just as he was” (36a).
4. He still couldn’t get away from the crowd as “There were also other boats with him” (36b).
5. So why did Jesus change locations?
 - a. Maybe he was trying to spread the gospel further (cf, Mk 1:38).
 - b. Maybe he was trying to get away from the large crowd.
 - c. Maybe he knew a storm was brewing and it was time to test the faith of His disciples.
6. Had His disciples really heard what He had said about the kingdom? Did they know who He was and trust in Him?
 - a. Warren Wiersbe notes, “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. . . . 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” (Wiersbe, 59).
 - b. Daniel Akin adds, “Trials and tribulations, difficulties and desperate moments are when God does His greatest work in our lives. When He brings us to the end of ourselves, we are driven to Him and Him alone as Savior and Rescuer. If He does not act, we will not be saved” (Daniel Akin, *Exalting Jesus in Mark*, 98-99).

B. Jesus Calms the Storm (37-41)

1. “A furious squall (Gk., *lailaps megale anemou*) came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped” (37).
 - a. The Sea of Galilee is the lowest freshwater lake in the world. It sits in a bowl like depression with its surface about 700’ below sea level. It is small at only about 64 square miles (13 x 8 miles) and its deepest part is only 140’.
 - b. Winds blowing down from the surrounding mountains can soon stir up the shallow waters into a raging cauldron.
 - c. Just such a storm seems to have caught Jesus and His disciples in the middle of their crossing.
2. “Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion” (38a)
 - a. Jesus was most likely exhausted from teaching and ministering to the needs of others.
 - b. This detail reveals that Jesus was fully human. He got tired and needed sleep. He was both fully the Son of God and fully son of man.
 - c. It also reveals that Jesus was confident in His Father and had faith that His Father would protect Him so that He could complete His mission at Calvary.
3. As Jesus lay fast asleep, the disciples were afraid in the midst of this storm. (38)
 - a. At least four of the disciples (i.e., Peter, Andrew, James, and John) were experienced fisherman who knew the Sea of Galilee and its violent storms.
 - b. Even these seasoned and experienced fishermen were scared of this storm.
 - c. They didn’t know what else to do, so they woke Jesus up.
 - d. Going to Jesus when we are afraid is always a good thing. He is our ever-present help in time of need.
4. The disciples woke him with a rebuke: “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” (38b)
 - a. This is the first of twelve uses in Mark of the title “Teacher” (Gk., *Didaskale*) being applied to Jesus. It is natural here at the conclusion of a section highlighting Jesus’ teaching (cf, Mk 4:1-34).
 - b. The “we” was more “me” than “thee.” It was a selfish, harsh accusation.
 - c. Certainly Jesus cared for them.
5. Immediately, Jesus rebuked the storm (39).
 - a. He rebuked (Gk., *epitimeo*) just as he had “rebuked” the demons (cf, Mk 1:25)
 - b. “Quiet! Be still! (Gk., *pephimoso* = “be muzzled;” “be still and stay still”).
 - c. Instantly the wind died down. With no wind, the waves soon subsided as well. The storm was over.
 - d. Jesus demonstrated his power over nature and the danger to life brought on by this violent storm.
6. Jesus then rebuked his disciples (40-41).
 - a. Jesus asked them, “Why are you so afraid (Gk., *deiloi*)?” (40a)
 - b. He got to the heart of the problem when he asked, “Do you still have no faith (Gk., *pistin*)?” (40b)
 - c. Jesus had told His disciples that they could not understand His parables without faith (cf., Mk 4:11-12), and now He pointed out that they could not understand His control over nature without faith.
 - d. There is a direct connection between fear and lack of faith.
7. The disciples were “afraid” (40) of the storm and “terrified” (41) by the powerful actions of Jesus.
 - a. Note that Mark uses two different words used for fear.
 - 1) The disciples were “afraid” (v. 40 = Gk., *deiloi*) of the storm.
 - 2) The disciples were “terrified ” (v. 41 = Gk. *epobethsan pobon Megan* – “they feared a great fear”) by what Jesus did in showing His power over nature.
 - 3) The disciples were more terrified by Jesus’ power than they were by the furious storm.
 - 4) They were terrified because they did not yet have faith/understanding/trust in who Jesus was.
 - b. The disciples gave evidence of their lack of faith/understanding/belief as they used words similar to those spoken about Jesus early in his ministry by other unbelievers.
 - 1) The disciples asked, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” (41b)
 - 2) Likewise in the past, “The people were amazed at this teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. . . . The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, ‘What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him’ (Mk 1:22,27).

- 3) Interestingly, the demons were terrified of Jesus because they knew who he was: “What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” (Mk 1:24).
- 4) The seed of faith is planted as we come to know who Jesus is, but knowing who He is, is not enough. Faith requires a trusting whole-hearted submission to God and His plan.
- 5) Faith allows us to sleep soundly in the back of a boat in the midst of a storm, just like Jesus.

C. Closing Thoughts

1. Sometimes the storms of life come against us because of our disobedience, and sometimes they come as a test of our faith.
2. No matter what type of storm (i.e., physical, emotional, mental, spiritual) that we face, Jesus is there with us. We must trust Him by faith to bring us through safely no matter what rages around us.
3. Never think that Jesus doesn't care for you. He demonstrated His care for you by laying down His life for your salvation. He won't let you perish now.
4. Fear is a sign of unbelief. The cure to fear is faith. Whenever God speaks to your heart, “Be not afraid,” it is a command to keep faith in Him to bring you through. He will not abandon you to the storm.
5. Who is Jesus to you?