



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Week 14: Jesus: The "I" of the Storm

Read Mark 4:35-41

1. Jesus Wants Us To Know Him And Not Just Believe In Him

- Read Mark 4:38

The disciples had been with Jesus as he had performed great miracles and they had heard him teaching about the kingdom of God. But up until this point, they had not yet experienced the kingship of Jesus in their own lives at a personal level. At the first sign of trouble, they assessed the situation and doubted Jesus' care for them, and they did not believe that he would be able to save them from this powerful storm. They believed in his authority and power to a point but they did not yet recognize or trust him as God.

- ❖ Q: Why do you think it is possible for people who hear about God week-in and week-out at church, and study the scriptures and have a great knowledge about God, to still not be able to trust God as king in their own personal circumstances? In what way are we just like the disciples who were in the boat with Jesus when the storm came up?
- ❖ Q: Do you think your own belief in Jesus is the same as your trust in him as God? Discuss.
- ❖ Q: Have you ever been through circumstances that revealed that your knowledge of Christ was not enough, and that didn't know him personally enough to completely trust him? Has that shaped the way in which you pursue Christ now?
- ❖ Q: Do you think that for some of us, our trust in Jesus is based on the hope that he will always "come through" for us? (I.e. that he will always solve the issues in our lives with the answer that causes the least pain or difficulty).

2. Jesus Calls Us Out On Our Lack Of Faith But He Doesn't Reject Us

- Read Mark 4:39-40 & Hebrews 13:5

Despite their obvious lack of real faith, Jesus still responded to their need to be rescued. In using just 3 words, the sea calmed and returned to order, obeying its master. Jesus' authority to speak to the elements showed the disciples tangibly that he was God, and that their terror was unnecessary because he was in control. Even though he divinely acted on their behalf, which would have caused their faith to increase, Jesus still rebuked them for not yet believing in his power. He didn't just leave them to themselves to piece the puzzle together; he spoke to them and challenged them strongly about where their hope and trust lay. But from the rest of the narrative we know that Jesus didn't give up on them for their lack of faith, he continued on with his kingdom mission with them at his side, teaching them and allowing them to witness and experience the kingdom of God working in different situations. This terrifying storm allowed the disciples to experience their own need for a saviour, and that Jesus was the one they needed. Trials in our lives reveal God's grace in our lives. Sometimes God does not quiet the "storm" but leads us through it, and gives us what we need to endure the suffering. He promises that his grace is enough for us (2 Cor. 12 vs. 9).

- ❖ Q: Why do you think it was important for the disciples to experience for themselves that Jesus had authority over the storm and the raging sea?
- ❖ Q: Why is it important for us to know that Jesus rescued the disciples even though their faith was weak?
- ❖ Q: Why do you think Jesus still challenged the disciples' lack of faith when he had just done another miracle to attest to his power?
- ❖ Q: If Jesus were to push you into a dangerous "storm", would your faith remain in him as God or would he need to rebuke you for your lack of faith?
- ❖ Q: How are we as people of faith in Christ to approach the "storms" (trying circumstances) that God chooses not to quiet, but rather sees fit for us to endure? (How is this possible?)

3. The Only Appropriate Response To Experiencing The Kingship Of Jesus Is Worship

- Read Mark 4:41

When Jesus calmed the storm, not only was he responding to the real needs of his disciples to be rescued, but he was also displaying his kingly reign over nature, returning the chaos to order in a way that they had not yet seen. No longer could he remain just a miracle-worker or a prophet in their eyes. They had experienced the power of God for themselves. As Jews awaiting a messiah, they had been hoping that Jesus would become their powerful political king, but his power was far superior to any earthly rule. It demanded by its sheer reality a posture of awe and worship. When we stop relating to Jesus as merely a good or powerful man and get a glimpse of his power and majesty, it will cause us to change our posture towards him. We will be face down before our king and we will trust him without reserve in every area of our lives because he rules and reigns. He is God.

- ❖ Q: Why were the disciples filled with "great fear" after Jesus had calmed the storm with his words?
- ❖ Q: What is your posture towards God at the moment? Are you filled with awe and worship? If not, what do you think needs to change? What can we pray for and what can you do to change your posture to one who cannot help but be face down before the King of Kings?