

Silverdale Baptist Church

PEACE IN THE STORM • JESUS CALMS THE STORM • MARK 4:35-41 • 3/21-22/2020

MAIN POINT

When facing difficulties, we must remember that Jesus is in control and working in our trials to make us more like Him.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Share about a time you or your family faced a difficult trial.

Are you more mindful of God in the midst of trials or during peaceful times?

What did you learn from that trial? How are you different because of it?

We tend to view the trials, like the one we are facing today, as inconvenient at best and evil at worst. According to the Bible, however, trials are opportunities for spiritual growth because Jesus has designed these times to strengthen our faith and make us more like Him.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 4:35-41.

Why did the disciples leave the area where Jesus had been teaching to go to the other side?

Since Jesus is God, would He have known the storm was coming?

Would Jesus lead His disciples into a storm? Why?

How should Jesus' presence in the boat have changed the disciples' attitude toward the storm?

Where was Jesus during the storm (v. 38)? What does that tell us about Him?

While the disciples were beginning to fear for their lives, Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. The fact that Jesus was asleep doesn't mean that Jesus doesn't care about the fate of His disciples (vs. 38) but instead that He was still in control. Jesus didn't sleep because He didn't care. Jesus slept because He wasn't stressed.

How did the disciples react to finding that Jesus was asleep in the midst of the storm?

Have you ever been tempted to think that God didn't care about you in the midst of your suffering?

How might knowing that the storm didn't worry Jesus give us strength and hope in trials?

How might remembering what God did for us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross help us overcome the temptation to doubt God's love for us?

Romans 5:8 says, "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." The cross is final proof that God loves us. We don't have to guess about whether or not He loves us. We don't have to worry about whether or not we have done enough good things to deserve His love. We can know that God loves us because He did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have a relationship with Him forever.

What is significant about how Jesus calmed the storm (v. 39)?

Jesus spoke to the sea and said, "Quiet! Be still!" and the wind died down, and it was completely calm. Jesus spoke, and the wind and the sea obeyed Him. Jesus calmed the storm the same way God created the universe by His word (John 1:1-5). When Jesus commands nature with His voice, He is communicating that He is God and that He is sovereign over nature.

How did Jesus' disciples respond to this miracle (v. 41)? Why do you think they reacted that way?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How might knowing that Jesus is with us in our difficulties strengthen us to face them?

What difficult situations and circumstances are you or your family currently facing?

How are you handling the Coronavirus pandemic? Nervous? Afraid? Worried that Jesus doesn't care if you get sick or die?

How might God be using this situation to strengthen your faith and deepen your relationship with Him?

How might studying God's Word make you more prepared to face the storms of life?

Who do you know that needs to be reminded that God is in control? How might you encourage them to trust Christ in their difficulties this week?

PRAYER

Thank God for demonstrating His love so boldly and freely by giving up His Son on the cross for our sins. Pray that the Lord would help us to trust that He is continually working for our spiritual good, even in trials and difficulties. Ask God to help us testify of His goodness and mercy as we face the storms of life.

COMMENTARY

Mark 4:35-41

4:35. "That day" refers to the same day that Jesus delivered His teaching in verses 1-34. "When evening came" is typical of Mark's dual references in which the second time marker is more specific than the first. In this case, the words indicate that Jesus had been teaching all day and they help build suspense for what follows, since a storm on the water at night is more frightening. "The other side of the sea" refers to the eastern side, which was Gentile territory. Parallel accounts of this passage can be found in Matthew 8:23-27 and Luke 8:22-25.

4:37. The Greek term for "furious squall" is used here and in Luke 8:23 to describe the fierce windstorm, whereas Matthew 8:24 used a phrase that means "sea-quake." The Sea of Galilee lies almost 700 feet below sea level. It is surrounded by highlands. To the northeast is Mount Hermon, which rises over 9,000 feet above sea level. When the cold air from Mount Hermon meets the rising warm air from the sea, it often results in a storm that sweeps down on to the lake from the heights. Because fishing boats of the day had low sides, the boat was already being swamped.

4:38. Jesus, tired from a long day of teaching, was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. Boat owners reserved the seat at the stern with carpet or cushions for the comfort of special guests. The cushion implies the boat only had one cushion on board. Jesus used it as a pillow for His

head. Mark often showed Jesus' humanity with such details. Jesus did get tired and needed sleep. His sleeping on this occasion also suggests His confidence in God (Ps. 4:8).

That storm's severity terrified even experienced fishermen. They rudely awakened Jesus. Their cry carried a sharp tone of rebuke: "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Apparently they did have some faith, however, as evidenced by the fact that they awakened Jesus. Their scolding of Him for sleeping indicated they thought He might do something about their situation if He was awake. Their reproach, however, showed they did not know who Jesus really was.

4:39. Only Mark recorded the words Jesus used, "Hush, be still," or "be muzzled."

4:40 Jesus reprovved His disciples for the lack of faith expressed in their terror and panic. This rebuke represents the first of a series of such rebukes in Mark's Gospel (see also 7:17-18; 8:17-18,21,33; 9:19). Mark's inclusion of the disciples' rebuke of Jesus, omitted by Matthew and Luke, showed his usual candor (see Matt. 8:24-27; Luke 8:22-25). Jesus' questions indicated the disciples should have had faith rather than fear.

4:41. "They were terrified" is literally "they feared a great fear." The great storm that Jesus turned into great calm now led to great fear. Their terror is understandable in light of the teaching that only God can make the wind and the sea obey Him (cp. Ps 65:7; 89:8-9).

This miracle over nature no doubt reassured first-century readers of Mark's Gospel who were suffering for their faith. Although Jesus might not always appear to be present or to care, He was with His followers. The Son of God would go with them into the storms of opposition and trial. His disciples need never doubt or fear.