

MIRACLES OF JESUS

CALMING A STORM, MARK 4:35-41

- A. Jesus asked His disciples to take Him across the Sea of Galilee to the other side (35-37)
1. He spent all day in ministry and requested that they go by boat to the other side (35), ***On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."***
 - a. Jesus had a busy day.
 - 1) His family came to take Him home, Mark 3:20-21, *...he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."*
 - 2) He was accused by religious leaders of being in league with Satan, Mark 3:22, *And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."*
 - 3) He taught crowds from a fishing boat anchored near the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Mark 4:1-2, *Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. And he was teaching them many things in parables...*
 - b. Jesus knew it was time to move on.
 - 1) He needed a break from ministry.
 - 2) Even more, Jesus was preparing to share His ministry beyond the confines of the nation of Israel.
 - 3) The other side was the region of Decapolis (Mark 5:20), a Gentile territory on the east side of the Sea of Galilee.
 2. The disciples took Jesus and were followed by other boats (36), ***And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.***
 - a. *just as He was*
 - 1) This refers to 4:1 which told of Jesus teaching from a boat on the shore.
 - 2) The same boat from which He taught became the boat that took them into a teachable moment, a deadly storm.
 - 3) The disciples would quickly move from instruction to application.
 - b. *other boats*
 - 1) Josephus wrote that there were usually more than 300 fishing boats on the Sea of Galilee at one time.
 - 2) People in boats who had listened to Jesus' teaching followed and would experience His power.
 3. A fierce wind swept water into the boat (37), ***And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.***
 - a. The Sea of Galilee is 150 feet deep, more than 600 feet below sea level and surrounded by mountains.
 - b. The hot air draws storms down with sudden power from the surrounding mountains and narrow valleys.
 - c. Warren Wiersbe, *Many people have the idea that storms come to their lives only when they have disobeyed God, but this is not always the case. Jonah ended up in a storm because of his disobedience, but the disciples got into a storm because of their obedience to the Lord.*
- B. A physical crisis brought confrontations (38-40)
1. The fearful disciples confronted Jesus (38), ***But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"***
 - a. Jesus had fallen asleep.
 - 1) He was exhausted from a day of intense ministry.
 - a) Family members wanted Him to stop His activities.
 - b) Religious leaders accused Him of demonic activity.
 - c) He spoke to crowds of people and taught His disciples.
 - 2) He can relate to the pressures of life because He is fully man and fully God, Hebrews 4:15-16, *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

- 3) Charles Ryrie, *Priceless are the glimpses of...the boy in the temple, the thirsty man at the Samaritan well, the brokenhearted friend at the tomb of Lazarus, and here the wearied worker asleep in the stern of a boat. This example is wonderfully encouraging for all who grow weary in the work on days that are full and often beset with difficulties.*
- b. The disciples awakened Him with a question, *Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?*
- 1) Jesus was at rest while the disciples were distressed.
 - a) The disciples were upset with Him because they mistook His calm for lack of concern.
 - b) It has been said that when we understand who God is, we will realize that He controls the storms of nature and the storms of the troubled heart.
 - c) The disciples still called Jesus, *Teacher*. By now, they should have called Him, *Master*.
 - d) The One who created the Sea of Galilee was at rest with them. Their safety was not secured by their sea-faring abilities but by the presence of Jesus.
 - 2) What one believes about Jesus becomes evident when confronted by the storms of life.
 - a) Will we look to Jesus with trust or anger?
 - b) Our trust must be in Jesus as Master, Savior, Lord, not just Teacher.
 - c) Philippians 4:6, *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*
2. Jesus confronted the wind and the sea (39), ***And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.***
- a. Jesus awoke but did not immediately respond to the disciples' question.
 - b. Instead, Jesus rebuked the wind.
 - 1) It was the same term He used when He rebuked demons.
 - 2) The source of the ferocious storm was demonic.
 - 3) Satan tried anything he could to keep Jesus from the cross.
 - c. Jesus calmed the sea.
 - 1) He told the sea to be calm and remain calm.
 - 2) After a storm and the winds had died down, the swell on the water would continue for some time. At Jesus' command the sea became as smooth as glass, Psalm 107:29, *He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.*
 - 3) Jesus demonstrated power only exercised by God in the Old Testament, Psalm 89:8-9, *O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you? You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them.*
 - d. Jesus delivered the disciples from danger.
 - 1) His delay taught the disciples to call on Him for help.
 - 2) His delay taught the disciples to trust Him despite the circumstances.
 - 3) His delay taught the disciples that Jesus is much more than *Teacher*.
 - 4) And, not only were the disciples saved but those in the other boats, were saved, as well.
3. Jesus confronted the disciples (40), ***He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"***
- a. The disciples had a fear problem.
 - 1) The type of fear in this text is cowardice which has no place in the life of a believer.
 - 2) Author unknown, *A coward gets scared and quits. A hero gets scared, but still goes on.*
 - 3) 2 Timothy 1:7, *...God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*
 - b. The disciples had a faith problem.
 - 1) The disciples had not tied Jesus' teaching to Who He is, God the Son.
 - 2) William Taylor, *As if he (Jesus) had said, 'After all you have seen of me and heard from Me, is it possible that you have not yet such faith as to give you the assurance that you are always safe when I am with you.'*
 - 3) Jesus had taught earlier in the day that true faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains when placed in the right object. Jesus is the right object of faith.

- c. The disciples had a problem of perspective.
 - 1) The disciples were with the Son of God but all they could see was their boat being overwhelmed by the waves.
 - 2) A. T. Robertson, *They had the Lord of the wind and the waves with them in the boat. He was still Master even if asleep in the storm.*
 - 3) Jesus told them to take Him to the other side. What Jesus tells us to do, we will accomplish by His provision.
- C. The disciples reacted to Jesus' power (41), *And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*
 - 1. They were filled with great fear.
 - a. This was not the cowardice of verse 40 but fear that should characterize all believers. It was awe and reverence in the presence of One Who is almighty.
 - b. The disciples knew they were in the presence of a power that could only come from the hand of God.
 - 2. They still questioned who Jesus is but they knew He must be more than they thought He was.
 - a. The disciples were learning more about Jesus but their faith was not yet in God the Son.
 - b. Faith is strengthened when we know Who we trust and that He is all powerful.
 - c. Charles Ryrie, *In the times of difficulty that come into our lives, we learn to know the Savior better.*
 - 3. This trial would one day bring strength to the disciples.
 - a. Later, Peter would declare in 1 Peter 5:7, *casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*
 - b. The same word for *care* used by Peter in the boat, *Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?* is the word he used in 1 Peter 5:7. Peter had learned the answer to that question in the boat. Jesus cared for him. Jesus cares for me. Jesus cares for you and for me.

<i>CONCLUSION</i>

- A. Storms will come. How will we respond?
- B. Try to remember six points found in this passage.
 - 1. We will be confronted by threatening storms.
 - 2. We may question God's care for us when overcome by stress or fear.
 - 3. We must trust God Who has sovereign control over every circumstance of our lives.
 - 4. We can rest in the calm God gives us as we trust Him.
 - 5. We need to remember God's past faithfulness as we face present trials.
 - 6. We must hold God in awe because of Who He is.
- C. The words of the Psalmist are still true as we go through the storms of life, Psalm 37:5, *Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.*