



‘Now!’ Sermon Series

Sermon #17

Sunday, August 18th, 2024

‘Lord Over the Storm!’

Mark 4:35-41

Last week in ‘NOW’ sermon series:

- Last week, we looked at three of the parables that Jesus shared in ***Mark 4:21-34***.
 - From that text, I preached a sermon entitled ***‘Lamps, Lots of Seeds, and the Lone Mustard Seed!’***
 - I asked the question: ***What does Jesus want us to learn from these three parables that Jesus shared with His disciples?***
 - ***Point 1: The Light of Jesus Will Not Go Out. (V. 21-25)***
 - ***Point 2: The Longevity of the Kingdom is God’s Responsibility. (V. 26-29)***

- ***Point 3: The Launch of God’s Kingdom will Grow. (V. 30-34)***

- Based on last week’s message, what did God have to say to you and how have you responded based on what He said?
- Possibly briefly explain what next Sunday (homecoming Sunday), is going to look like?

‘Lord Over the Storm!’

Mark 4:35-41

Sermon in a Sentence:

Jesus is Lord over any storm that we face when we look at the Peace before a Storm, the Panic during a Storm, the Power He has over the Storm, and the Progress that we need to make in our walk with Him after the Storm.

Intro:

- Calmness, Peace, Assurance, Safety, Stillness, Stability, is something that many people if asked the question, could not honestly say that they have in their life.
 - ***Most of the miracles of Jesus that were done in scripture (not all that Jesus did was recorded), were healings or exorcisms (casting out demons).***
 - ***But this morning in Mark 4:35-41, is one of two instances that Mark shares of Miracles that involved nature.***
- Nature miracles show an important aspect of Jesus' identity: His Deity.

- *The miracles recorded regarding nature are important because it shows that Jesus is fully God, while still fully man.*
- Scholar James A. Brooks said **'Nature miracles are, however, appropriate because they establish Jesus' authority over the inanimate part of creation just as the healings do over the animate part. Such miracles show that God is the Lord of nature as much as he is of individuals. A good case can be made for Mark having received the account from Peter or some other eyewitness from such incidental details as taking Jesus just as He was, the other boats that play no role in the remainder of the story, and Jesus sleeping on the cushion.'**
 - It's important to note that Matthew tells this same story in Matthew 8:23-27, and Luke does so in Luke 8:22-25.
- *Mark's version is the most detailed of these accounts, because we know that Mark got the information for his Gospel from an eyewitness, Peter.*
 - Matthew and Mark's versions are much more general and flattened.
- *So what differs in Mark's account of Jesus calming the storm compared to Matthew and Luke?*
 - #1: The Time of Day. (V. 35)
 - #2: The disciples took Jesus into the boat with them. (V. 36)
 - #3: Other Boats were around. (V. 36)
 - #4: The Boat began to take on water. (V. 37).
 - #5: Jesus sleeps on a cushion. (V. 38)
 - #6: The Disciples get sarcastic. (V. 38)
 - #7: Jesus sharply rebukes them. (V. 40).
- *I find it interesting that of all the synoptic Gospels, Mark has the most information about one of the most powerful and profound miracles that Jesus did.*
 - Mark is not known as a writer of details, but here he gives many, because it is widely believed that Peter provided the details for this story, probably as an older man to Mark.
- *Also, when reading and translating Mark 4:35-41 from the greek text, we get the idea that there was intense theological thought and reflections made by Mark.*
 - It is believed by many scholars, (including James Edwards), that Mark may have had Jonah 1 and Psalms 107:23-32 out in front of him as he recorded down what Peter had said.
- *Psalms 107:23-32:*
 - Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; they

saw the deeds of the LORD, his wondrous works in the deep. For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end. [a] Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters [b] were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man! Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.'

- ***I read Psalm 107:23-32 before we get into our text for us to remember and reflect on the fact that Jesus is God who stilled the storm that we find in Mark 4:35-41.***
 - ***And, He can still storm your life today...***

Question to Ask:

How does Jesus show us that He is Lord over the storms in our lives based on what happens in this passage?

Point 1: *Peace before the Storm. (V. 35-36)*

- Jesus had been preaching on the shores of Galilee, and this was possibly the same day that he had taught parables that had shown his disciples great truths about the Kingdom of God.
 - ***I know that after a Sunday or Wednesday service, I'm very tired from preaching, so I know that Jesus had to be very tired also.***
 - While these two verses are very general, I think you can see the peace that Jesus has before the storm comes upon the Sea, in two specific ways...
- ***Distance. (V. 35)***
 - 'On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."
 - This is not the first time that we see Jesus seek to put some distance between Himself and the crowds.
 - ***Surely Jesus was exhausted having constantly been around people, and teaching all day long.***
 - ***Verse 35 tells us that Jesus said He wanted them to go across to the other side of the sea.***
 - ***According to Mark 5:1, Jesus and the disciples head over to the region of the Gerasenes.***
 - Time and time again, Jesus shows us that in order to do effective ministry, sometimes distance is very important.

- *Some scholars will argue that Jesus wasn't going to the other side to distance Himself between the crowd, but that he was trying to expand his ministry.*
 - I believe it's both, Jesus needed a break, some distance because He knew that He had a divine appointment with a man who was possessed by multiple demons and *knew that it would be better if he had some rest for the ministry assignment that was ahead of Him.*
 - *Either way, Jesus put distance between Himself and the people.*
- *'Disciples' continue to follow Him. (V. 36)*
 - 'And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.'
 - This particular boat that Jesus was in was probably owned by Peter and Andrew, or James and John. As they had been called to the ministry and were previously fishermen.
 - *Scholar James Edwards shares that a fishing boat at this time would have most likely been '26 ½ feet long, 7 ½ wide, and 4 ½ high'*
 - We don't know for certain that this boat Jesus was in was the same size, but it is likely.

- *As I mentioned earlier, Mark is the only synoptic Gospel writer who includes the details of other boats being present.*
- *I believe this detail is added by Mark to let us in on something...*
 - *Back in Mark 4:34, when Jesus said He was speaking privately to his own disciples, that Greek Word 'Mathetes' μαθητής was used in a very general sense.*
 - In that context, Jesus used it to describe a follower, learner, or student.
- *At this time in Jesus ministry, it entailed all that had expressed an interest in Jesus for a period of time.*
 - It is not a reference to just the 12, but those that were interested and many of them would eventually fall away.
 - We this in *John 6:66*:
 - 'After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.'
- *So, as Jesus tried to get away and create some distance, the crowd jumped in their boats, and continued to follow Jesus even on the water.*
 - Then, the storm came.

Point 2: *Panic During the Storm. (V. 37-38)*

- ***This narrative from Jesus life takes place in the perfect location for a storm to take place.***

- Jesus and His disciples are on the sea of Galilee.
- ***While it's called a sea, most scholars agree that it is a very large freshwater lake that is 13 miles long and 7 miles wide.***
 - The Sea of Galilee is 690 feet below sea level.
- JM says ***It is both the lowest body of freshwater on earth and the most significant geographical feature of Galilee.***
 - Even today, this lake is home to a large and thriving fishing industry.

- ***The situation that Jesus and the disciples found themselves in was a perfect combination for a deadly storm.***

- James Edwards said this concerning the conditions for a storm at the Sea of Galilee ***'Thirty miles to the northeast Mt. Hermon rises to 9,200 feet above sea level. The interchange between cold upper air from Mt. Hermon and warm air rising from the Sea of Galilee produces tempestuous weather conditions for which the lake is famed.'***
 - But, because Jesus was fully God, He knew that this was going to occur.
 - ***Which reminds us, that even before the storms come up in our lives, God knows what they are and how bad they will be.***

- So, while we are tempted to panic and we often do, we don't have to be afraid, as we will see this morning, our God is right there in the boat with us.

- I believe there are **2** things to point out concerning the panic during the storms that we face in life.

- ***Disaster comes into our Boat. (V. 37)***

- 'And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.'
- No matter how young or old you are, you will face (if you haven't already), a time where disaster will come into your boat.

- ***Here with the disciples, a storm comes upon the sea and the boat starts to take on water.***

- ***Some of you are here this morning and you feel that the storms in your life are going to overtake you.***

- They may be strong and you feel like you're sinking, and from time to time it causes you to panic.

- ***Disaster is real, and it will sink into your boat.***

- To understand the disaster that comes to Jesus and His disciples while on the Sea of Galilee, we need to look at the words Mark used.

- ***Word Study***
 - The English word ‘windstorm’ is translated from two Greek words that Mark puts right beside each other, **‘Lailaps’ λαῖλαψ** (only occurs 3 times) and **‘Anemos’ ἀνέμου** (occurs 31 times).
 - Lailaps literally means a fierce gale, whirlwind.
 - **Mark intensifies how bad these winds were, by adding the Greek adjective ‘Megas’ μεγάλη to intensify his description of how bad this was.**
 - **The Greek word ‘Anemos’ can also be translated to mean ‘hurricane’.**
 - In fact, Luke uses the term ‘down on the lake’ to show that the wind was coming off the slopes of the mountain and whipping violently over the water.
 - **‘and as they sailed he fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water and were in danger.’ Luke 8:23**
 - **This caused the waves to crash against the boat, and into the boat.**
 - **I’m sure these experienced fishermen were doing all they could to get the water out of the boat in whatever ways they could.**
- **But may I remind you this morning, that no matter how quickly you try to get the water out of your boat, you can’t do it without the divine and supernatural help of the Master.**
 - The disaster came into the Boat.
 - **Dire Desperation often Encapsulates Us. (V. 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?”’
 - I can’t help but think, that the disciples’ reaction to Jesus sleeping on a cushion in the stern of this fishing boat, is so reminiscent of you and I.
 - **How often do we go through the storms in our lives and look at God and say, ‘Do you not see that I’m struggling down here? Do you not see what I am experiencing and going through? Do you not care?’**
 - **While we may be tempted to look at the disciples’ reaction as disrespectful towards Jesus, this is the way that people usually talk to God when they are frustrated and desperate.**
 - Scholar James Edwards said **‘(this) is probably a verbatim reminiscence of the disciples’ response in the crisis.’**
 - This is real and raw stuff of how we usually talk to God when things are just not going our way.

- *We often let dire desperation get a hold of us instead of dire dependence on God.*
- *As I mentioned a few minutes ago, Mark is the only Gospel writer who mentions the cushion being in the boat that Jesus laid His head on.*
 - We may be tempted to ask, why on earth is Jesus in a deep sleep in the middle of such a turbulent storm?
- *Because Jesus is in control of the storm and He doesn't have to worry about what is to happen because He knows what will happen.*
 - Mark does a really good job here of showing that Jesus is fully God, yet still fully man.
 - '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.'
Hebrews 4:15
 - *The fact that Jesus is sleeping shows that there is a lack of fear, and also great fatigue, this shows Jesus humanity.*
- Before we look how Jesus responds to what the disciples said to Him, we need to point out that MANY have compared the sleeping of Jesus here, to that of Jonah.

- *Before we get too carried away with the comparison's and such, I truly believe it is a coincidence and does not imply that Jesus modeled His life after Jonah.*
- I truly believe Jesus was asleep to show that He was human, and also that Jesus had complete trust in His Father (God), and not in the awful storm.
- *Before you and I are tempted to allow the storms in our lives to press us into dire desperation that often encapsulates us, may we remember just how big our God really is.*

Point 3: *Power Over the Storm.* (V. 39)

- *There is no one stronger, no one greater, no one like our God.*
 - Jesus shows that clearly and authoritatively in verse 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.' Mark 4:39
 - *Nature will also have to listen and bow down to almighty God.*
 - *We need to remind ourselves that the pre-incarnate Christ established the boundaries of the seas on the earth with just a word.*
 - 'And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And

it was so. **10** God called the dry land Earth,^[a] and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.’ Genesis 1:9-10

- *Even with hurricane debby that we just experienced, God is always in control of nature, His creation.*
- *Notice in this situation, that Jesus does not chastise or chide the disciples for their sarcastic and rather rude remark to Him.*
 - Instead, He gets up and calms the raging storm.
- There is one important thing I want us to see from this verse...
- *Jesus has Authority over every ‘Storm’ you face. (V. 39)*
 - When we look at the storms we face and feel there is no way that we can get out or get through, may we be reminded of these three things...
 - **#1: Our God is omniscient.**
 - He knows everything. Including actual things and then potential things.
 - **#2: Our God is omnipresent.**
 - He exists everywhere.
 - **#3: Our God is omnipotent.**

- He is all powerful and can do anything. Anything.

- ***Satan will seek to tempt and sell the idea to you that the storms will defeat you and you can’t do anything about.***
 - When satan brings that to you, please remember that if Jesus can calm the raging sea, He can calm the storms in your life.
- ****Word Study****
 - Look at the word that Mark uses to describe what Jesus did, ‘rebuked’.
 - This comes from the greek word ‘**Epitimao**’ which literally means **to reprove, chide, censure, reprimand, and rebuke.**
 - This same greek word is used by Mark in Mark 1:25 where He (Jesus) rebuked the demons!
- ***Some scholars will use the fact that Mark uses this same word as he did when Jesus silenced demons, to insinuate that the storm was a demon possessed storm.***
 - ***Where that’s the case or not, I’m not sure. But Jesus rebukes the storm and tells it to be still which really means to stay still.***
- ***The importance here is that when Jesus speaks even creation has to listen.***

- So if Jesus can do this, doesn't that mean that He can calm the storms in your life? Yes, yes it does.

Point 4: *Progress After the Storm. (V. 40-41)*

- Now that the storm is over and has been calmed, Jesus wants to speak with His disciples concerning this matter.
- 'He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" 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?"
 - *In other words, Jesus wants to continue to edify them and show them that He (Jesus), was in control the entire time, regardless of how bad the storm was or may have gotten.*
 - *The key in these verses is this, that once the storms are gone because Jesus Himself has calmed them, we are to progress in our faith and realize that He is still in control.*
 - *We must come to the place where we admit and realize that we were wrong, and that Christ Jesus was right and sovereign.*
 - *Scholar James Edwards said 'Typically in Mark, whenever the person and work of Jesus are highlighted, so, too, are discipleship.'*

- Discipleship is to accompany our faith in Jesus.

- I believe there is one very important thing that we can take from these verses...

- ***The Choice is up to you... (V. 40-41)***

- This narrative in Jesus' life ends with the disciples asking a question that each and every one of us must answer.

- ***'Who then is this'***

- ***Who do you say that Jesus is based on what you've read and heard in the scriptures today?***
 - Notice in verse 40 Jesus asks them why they are afraid...
 - Then in verse 41 Mark tells us that they were filled with great fear...
 - ***Despite the things that they have seen Jesus do, the miracles He's performed, people He has healed and the lives He has touched, they still don't seem to know exactly who Jesus is.***
 - ***In Mark's Gospel there will be three boat scenes.***
 - This one, and Mark 6:45-52 and Mark 8:14-21.
 - ***In each one, a miracle occurs.***
 - As we continue in our study of Mark's Gospel, we will see that each Boat scene is an opportunity for you and I to settle the identity of Jesus.

- *Obviously the best and correct answer is 'You are the Christ, the Son of God!'*
- Dr. Daniel Aiken said *'The presence of God is far more frightening than the most destructive forces of nature. One can take your life. The other can claim your soul.'*
 - **So where are you??**
 - Are you progressing in your faith and getting closer to Jesus after and through every storm that you face?
- Or are you allowing the water in your boat to overtake you?
 - *The choice is yours. Who do you say that Jesus is?*

Conclusion:

- *Every person that is here this morning walked in with some kind of storm in your life.*
 - I don't know what that particular storm or situation may be, but we know that God knows.
- *As we close our service today, I want to remind you that God cares about the storms in your life, and He wants to be Lord over those storms.*
 - **But even if you are saved, you actually have to allow Him to be the Lord over your storms.**
 - Your situation will not get better with you trying to calm the storms. You have to trust in almighty God and allow Him

to calm the raging seas that you've never been able to control.

- *The fact that Jesus is Lord over any and every storm in this life, is a key theological doctrine of my life and of this Church.*
 - You need to come during this time and allow Christ Jesus to calm your storms today...
- **Point 1: *Peace before the Storm. (V. 35-36)***
- **Point 2: *Panic During the Storm. (V. 37-38)***
- **Point 3: *Power Over the Storm. (V. 39)***
- **Point 4: *Progress After the Storm. (V. 40-41)***