

The Jefferson Spirit

Sundays at 9:00AM

Pastor Mark Jarema

February 23, 2025



"Who's in Your Boat?"

Mark 4:35-41 recounts a powerful moment when Jesus and His disciples faced a sudden storm on the Sea of Galilee. As waves crashed and fear overtook them, Jesus remained asleep. In desperation, the disciples cried out, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" With just a command, "Peace, be still," Jesus calmed the storm, leaving them in awe. This passage reminds us that while storms will come, with Jesus in our boat, we have nothing to fear.

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41 (NIV)

Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Interesting facts about Mark 4:35-41:

1. The Sea of Galilee’s Unique Geography Causes Sudden Storms

The Sea of Galilee is about 700 feet below sea level, surrounded by hills and mountains.

Cold air from the mountains collides with warm air rising from the sea, creating violent, unpredictable storms—just like the one the disciples faced.

2. Jesus Was Asleep on a Cushion—A Sign of His Humanity

This is one of the few times we see Jesus sleeping in the Gospels.

His exhaustion shows His fully human nature, while His power to calm the storm shows His fully divine nature.

3. The Disciples Were Experienced Fishermen, Yet They Panicked

Several disciples—Peter, Andrew, James, and John—were seasoned fishermen, accustomed to handling rough waters.

The fact that they feared for their lives suggests the storm was truly severe, beyond anything they had faced before.

4. Jesus Used the Same Words to Calm the Storm as He Did to Rebuke Demons

Jesus said, “Peace, be still” (Mark 4:39).

The Greek word for “be still” (φίμω, phimoo) literally means “to muzzle”—the same word He used when casting out demons (Mark 1:25).

This suggests the storm may have been more than just a natural occurrence—it could have been spiritual opposition.

5. The Storm May Have Been an Attempt to Stop Jesus’ Mission

After this event, Jesus arrived in the Gerasenes, where He immediately encountered a demon-possessed man (Mark 5:1-20).

Some scholars believe Satan stirred up the storm to prevent Jesus from reaching the man, who would later spread the Gospel in that region.



6. Jesus Did Not Wake Up Because of the Storm—Only the Disciples' Cry

The wind and waves did not wake Him—but His disciples did.

This shows Jesus is always attentive to our cries, even when it seems like He is “asleep” during our struggles.

7. The Disciples' Fear Shifted from the Storm to Jesus

Before Jesus calmed the storm, they were afraid of the waves.

After He calmed it, they were in awe of Him, asking, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!”

This moment revealed His divine power over nature, fulfilling Old Testament scriptures (Psalm 89:9, Psalm 107:29).

8. The Story Highlights the Contrast Between Fear and Faith

Jesus asked, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” (Mark 4:40).

This moment teaches that fear and faith cannot coexist—one will always overpower the other.

9. The Event Points to Jesus' Power Over Creation

In Jewish thought, only God had control over the sea (Psalm 107:23-29).

By commanding the storm to stop, Jesus revealed His divine authority as the Son of God.

10. The Miracle Wasn't Just About the Storm—It Was About Trust

Jesus didn't promise the disciples a storm-free life, but He did show them they could trust Him in the storm.

This lesson is still true today—storms will come, but with Jesus in our boat, we have nothing to fear. 11:14-23; 8:19-21, but Mark's version emphasizes Jesus' authority and the opposition He faced.

Upcoming Events:

February 25 - 7-8pm Online Bible Study - Bad Girls of the Bible.

March 2 - Holy Communion

March 4 - 7-8pm Online Bible Study - Bad Girls of the Bible - Check Facebook for the zoom link.

March 5 - Ash Wednesday - 7PM Pastor Mark Preaching (St Paul Lutheran Church)

12PM Pastor Katie Preaching (New Hope)

March 8 - 9-10am - Men's Prayer Meeting at the church.

March 9 - Birthday Celebration with Pancake Breakfast

March 9 - 12:30 Community Vacation Bible School Meeting. Vacation Bible School will be held this year on Sunday, June 22 - Thursday, June 26th.

March 11 - 7-8pm Online Bible Study - Bad Girls of the Bible

March 13 - 7pm Administrative Council Meeting

March 18 - 7-8pm Online Bible Study - Bad Girls of the Bible

March 22 - 5pm Men In Black Band with Potluck Dinner following the service.

March 25 - 7-8pm Online Bible Study - Bad Girls of the Bible

March 29 — 9am Jefferson Church Summit with Pastor Mark and Pastor Katie at Jefferson UMC

April 17 - Maundy Thursday, Service 7pm - Pastor Amy preaching (Jefferson UMC)

April 18 - Good Friday, Service at 7pm

April 20 - Easter - Sunrise Service outside at 6:30am and in the sanctuary at 9:00am



Prayer Requests:

Family of Adam White on his passing (Bob & Charlotte Dinsmore)

Tammy Mabin on her knee replacement surgery (Doris Branch)

Terry Oland recovering at home from heart attack (Doris Branch)

Mark Greenwood recovering from elbow surgery (Doris Branch)

Fun Quiz: "Calming the Storm" (Mark 4:35-41)

1. Who told the disciples to go to the other side of the sea?

- A) Peter
- B) John
- C) Jesus
- D) A Roman soldier

2. What body of water were Jesus and His disciples crossing?

- A) The Mediterranean Sea
- B) The Dead Sea
- C) The Jordan River
- D) The Sea of Galilee

3. What was Jesus doing during the storm?

- A) Preaching to the disciples
- B) Rowing the boat
- C) Sleeping on a cushion
- D) Walking on the water

4. How did the disciples react to the storm?

- A) They sang hymns
- B) They tried to row harder
- C) They panicked and woke Jesus up
- D) They jumped out of the boat

5. What did Jesus say to calm the storm?

- A) "Storm, go away!"
- B) "Quiet! Be still!"
- C) "Have faith, my friends!"
- D) "Peace be upon you!"

6. What happened after Jesus spoke to the storm?

- A) The storm became even worse
- B) The boat sank, but they swam to shore
- C) The wind and waves immediately became calm
- D) A rainbow appeared in the sky

7. How did Jesus respond to the disciples after calming the storm?

- A) He scolded them for waking Him up
- B) He told them to always bring an umbrella
- C) He asked why they were afraid and why they had no faith
- D) He performed another miracle right away

8. How did the disciples feel after the storm was calmed?

- A) Relieved but still angry
- B) Joyful and immediately started singing
- C) Filled with fear and amazement, asking, "Who is this?"
- D) Indifferent, since they expected Jesus to do it

9. What does this story teach us about Jesus?

- A) He was a great fisherman
- B) He has authority over nature and our fears
- C) He only helps when we wake Him up
- D) He doesn't like traveling by boat

10. What is the biggest lesson we can learn from this passage?

- A) Always check the weather before setting sail
- B) Trust Jesus in the storms of life, because He is in control
- C) It's better to travel by land than by sea
- D) Storms are a sign of God's disapproval

Bonus Question: What was waiting for Jesus and the disciples on the other side of the lake?

- A) A huge feast
- B) A demon-possessed man who needed deliverance
- C) A group of Pharisees questioning Him
- D) A large marketplace

Order of Worship

Welcome

Opening Prayer

*Call to Worship (Congregation)

Leader: Come, people of God, let us gather in the presence of the One who calms the storm.

Congregation: We come with hearts open, seeking His peace in the midst of life's troubles.

Leader: When the waves rise and fear takes hold, Jesus speaks, "Peace, be still."

Congregation: We trust in the One who commands the wind and the waves.

Leader: Why are we afraid? Have we not seen His power? Have we not felt His love?

Congregation: Lord, strengthen our faith and quiet our fears.

Leader: The same Jesus who calmed the storm is here with us now.

Congregation: We worship You, O Lord, our refuge and our peace.

Leader: Let us lift our voices in praise to the One who is greater than every storm!

Congregation: Amen! We worship the Lord who brings peace to our hearts and to the world.

Children's Message

***When morning guilds the skies , p.185 UMC Hymnal**

Scripture Reading: Mark 4:35-41

Sermon: Who's in Your Boat?

Offertory - **Violinist—Eileen Gordon**

*Doxology - p.95 UMC Hymnal

***Jesus Savior pilot me, p.509 UMC Hymnal**

*Confession and Pardon – Based on Mark 4:35-41

Leader:

God of mercy and grace, too often we let the storms of life overwhelm us. We allow fear to shake our faith and doubt to cloud our trust in You. When the winds rise and the waves crash, we forget that You are with us.

Congregation:

Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have doubted Your presence. Forgive our fear when we should have faith, our worry when we should trust, and our silence when we should call upon You.

Leader:

Jesus, You calmed the raging sea with a word, yet we still struggle to believe You can bring peace to our troubled hearts.

Congregation:

Lord, have mercy on us. Speak to our storms, quiet our souls, and strengthen our faith.

Leader:

Hear the good news: Christ is with us in every storm. His love is greater than our fear, and His grace is more powerful than our sin. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Congregation:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All:

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Trust and obey, p.467 UMC Hymnal**

***Sending Forth**

Postlude

Answer Key:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. C) Jesus | 8. C) Filled with fear and amazement, asking, "Who is this?" |
| 2. D) The Sea of Galilee | 9. B) He has authority over nature and our fears |
| 3. C) Sleeping on a cushion | 10. B) Trust Jesus in the storms of life, because He is in control |
| 4. C) They panicked and woke Jesus up | Bonus: B) A demon-possessed man who needed deliverance |
| 5. B) "Quiet! Be still!" | |
| 6. C) The wind and waves immediately became calm | |
| 7. C) He asked why they were afraid and why they had no faith | |

Sermon Insights

Sermon Lesson:

Life's storms can strike without warning, just as they did for the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. Though they were obeying Jesus' command to cross to the other side, they still found themselves in a terrifying storm. In their panic, they cried out, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" (Mark 4:38). But with just a word, Jesus calmed the wind and waves, revealing His divine authority. This passage reminds us that following Jesus doesn't mean we won't face storms—but it does mean we never face them alone. Fear and faith cannot coexist; when we focus on the storm, we sink in fear, but when we trust in Jesus, we find peace even in the chaos. The question isn't whether storms will come—it's whether we trust the One who is in the boat with us. No matter how fierce the storm, Jesus is greater.

Application:

1. **Expect Life's Storms**, But Stay Anchored in Christ – Just as the disciples faced a storm while obeying Jesus, we will also encounter trials even when we are walking in God's will. Instead of being surprised by hardship, prepare your heart by staying rooted in prayer, scripture, and fellowship. When storms arise—whether in your health, finances, or relationships—hold onto the promise that Jesus is with you and will never abandon you.
2. **Replace Fear with Faith** – When the winds of life shake you, don't let fear control your response. Fear paralyzes, but faith empowers. The next time you feel overwhelmed, pause and pray instead of panicking. Choose to trust in God's promises rather than focusing on the size of the storm. Speak words of faith, saying, "Lord, I trust You even when I can't see the way forward."
3. **Trust in Jesus' Power Over Every Storm** – No matter what you are facing, remember that Jesus has authority over all things—your struggles, your worries, and even the chaos around you. If He can calm the sea with a word, He can bring peace to your heart and your situation. This week, actively surrender your burdens to Him. Instead of carrying the weight alone, remind yourself daily: Jesus is in my boat, and I have nothing to fear.

Conclusion:

No matter what storms you face in life—whether expected or unexpected, brief or overwhelming—remember that Jesus is in your boat. Storms will come, even when you're following Him, but you don't have to face them alone. Fear and faith cannot coexist, so choose faith, trusting that the One who commands the wind and waves is the same One who holds you in His hands. When the storms rage, don't focus on their size—focus on the Savior. He has the power to bring peace, not just to the storm around you, but to the storm within you. So take heart, trust in Him, and know that when Jesus speaks, the storm must obey.