

A Wheat Street Bible Study

“We Are Wheat Street!”

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Don't Be Worried by the Weather Report: Going to the Other Side

Mark 4:35-41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” **36** And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. **37** A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. **38** But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” **39** He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. **40** He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” **41** And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Dealing with Stormy Weather

This passage is about progressive ministry. It is about being willing to get in the boat to go to the other side. The act of faith in this text is getting in the boat and **riding with Jesus.**

As we look in on this text I want to make sure we see that it wasn't just Jesus and the disciples in the boat but there were other boats with them. If we were to go back to Mark 1:16-20 we see that the first disciples that Jesus called were fisherman they were used to being on boats and being in the water (four of the disciples were experienced fishermen). What was the problem today? Shouldn't they be used to being in a boat when storms come up?

I have always wondered why they were so scared?
Could it be that this was an unusual storm?

Could it be that when they got in the boat the storm was starting and it got progressively worse?

Could it be that they thought they weren't supposed to have any storms with Jesus in the boat?

The irony of it all is that Jesus is with them all the time!

Stormy Weather: Don't Be Surprised

Mark 4:35

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."

Let's set the scene. It is night and they just got through with a major ministry gathering. They are tired. They are doing powerful, new progressive ministry and they are going to the "other side" to do more ministry. They have made a decision to go to the other side. Whenever you make a decision to go to the "other side" you can expect storms. You should expect storms. There will be storms.

This passage is speaking both literally and figuratively. This really did happen. They were in a storm and this passage lets us know that when we decide to go to the other side we will encounter storms.

When we decide to get in the boat with Jesus and do what God requires of us at any point in our life there are going to be some storms. There are always going to be those rainmakers in our life. Those folk who don't understand or appreciate what God is doing in you or what God is telling you to do and they want to tell you what you should do. These people are rainmakers.

Mark 4:36

36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.

We sometimes miss the fact that there were other boats with them. This is important because it lets us know that when we follow Jesus and decide to go to the other side that there are other people / other boats with us. We are not alone. We can sometimes feel alone but we are not alone.

The text also says they “took Jesus with them.” As we go through life we have to ask what does it mean to “take Jesus with us?” What does it look like in a practical way to take Jesus with us?

1. One way we take Jesus with us is to remember the ways and words of Jesus as a guide in life and especially in the midst of a storm.
2. Remember and call on the word of God as a source of inspiration and liberation. As you recall God’s word it reminds you of how God acts and sets God’s people free whenever they are in crisis.
3. Remember what you have been taught in the preached word, the taught word and the sung word.
4. Remember what God has done in your life. Remember how God has shown up before.

Psalm 18:6

6

In my distress I called upon the Lord;
to my God I cried for help.
From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

The Response to the Storm

Mark 4:37-38

37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. **38** But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

Storms are going to come.

The question for us is how we respond to the storms of life and ministry and church growth!

We are going to have some ROUGH times in life.....

The storms arose, the boat is getting swamped and they panic!

Jesus on the other hand is sleeping.

How does Jesus respond and how do the disciples respond?

The Disciples:

They panic, they wake Jesus up and accuse him of not caring.

The don't wake Jesus up calmly and say, "Master we have a weather problem here could you please help us out."

No, they accuse Jesus of not caring. Now before we judge them, have we ever felt like God had left us or forsaken us?

Have we ever asked God why me?

Have we ever asked God how that person could be blessed, wealthy and healthy and then there is me?

Have we ever felt like we were in the midst of a storm and Jesus was sleeping on us?

I get it...I have been there! I have a sense of what the disciples are feeling.

Jesus Response to Storm:

Jesus is sleeping in the midst of this terrible storm.

Jesus does not allow the storm to upset him.

Jesus does not rebuke them for being afraid in the midst of the storm.

Jesus does not respond to their accusation that he doesn't care.

Mark 4:39

39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

This blows my mind as it goes from full blown storm to peace. They go from winds bashing the boat to dead calm.

Have you ever been there. What you were all stressed over, that is now over. You went from insane and not knowing how you were going to make it or how it was going to get done and then God just stepped in. Or the resolution arrived and you could take a breathe. Have you ever been there?

See a big part of this lesson is to help us reflect back on the storms that have occurred in our life so we can deal with the storms we are in or the storms that are ahead.

This lesson is about disaster preparedness! We have to be prepared to handle the disaster when it comes and the key to handling a disaster is to make sure you have Jesus in the boat!

There comes a point in the midst of the storm that the storm calms down or is over. What we have to do is decide how we are going to react or respond in the midst of the storm as we **work, wait, pray and believe** while we are in the storm.

The Question

Mark 4:40-41

40 He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” **41** And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Why are you / we afraid?

Do we/ you have a reason to have faith?

What has God brought you / us through? Write it down:

What had the disciples seen God do? Not only this we have to remember they literally were with Jesus everyday, all day, in the physical. Jesus was their teacher. We can't just write that off. What had they seen? (What have you seen?)

Jesus Exorcise the Unclean Spirit - Mark 1:21-28

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House - Mark 1:29-34

Jesus Cleanses a Leper - Mark 1:40-45

Jesus Heals a Paralytic - Mark 2:1-2

Jesus Heals the Man with a Withered Hand - Mark 3:1-6

This is just a sample, not to include the powerful teaching and preaching they have been exposed to during this early phase in Jesus' ministry. What God does is God gives a glimpse of coming attractions. We know how God will act based on how God has acted. We see what God can do and will based on what God has done. While we might not a direct reference to our situation we know that the attributes of God are consistent. The ways of God are consistent. We can rely on God to be consistent.

I am to old and I have been through to much not to have FAITH!

I choose to believe God and trust in God in the midst of the storms of life now
and in the future.