

Mark 4:35-41

I. The Account

- a. Context
 - i. Jesus pulls away from crowds; goes on boat with disciples
 - ii. V. 36: They took him; fishermen in group presumably confident mariners and took charge of situation
 - iii. Jesus asleep; exhausted from ministering to crowds
 - iv. For Israelites, the sea symbolized the dark power of evil threatening to destroy God's good creation, God's people, and God's purposes
 - v. Subtle allusion to Jonah in OT
 - vi. Significant details indicate this is NOT to be taken as fictional legend
- b. The Storm
 - i. Storm fronts swept quickly over the mountains and onto the sea of Galilee
 - ii. Though confident sailors, the severity of the storm shakes their confidence and induces panic
 - iii. They cry out to Jesus; tone of rebuke, thinking Jesus doesn't care

II. The Proclamation (what the text states about Jesus)

- a. Reveals his human side: his extreme exhaustion from ministering
- b. Jesus displays authority over nature (this is the first of his nature miracles)
 - i. He calms the storm by speaking- allusion to *Genesis 1* where God speaks creation into being; not only calms wind but also waves
 - ii. Jesus Christ is Lord of Creation (c.f. *Colossians 1:15-20*)

III. The Responses

- a. Jesus: gentle rebuke of the disciples; they have heard him speak, they have seen his previous miracles, do they not get it? They have heard him speak and seen his previous miracles. Do they still not get it? Despite their lack of faith, he still calms the storm and saves them.
- b. Disciples: fear shifts from the storm to the one with them (compare *Exod. 14:31*)
 - i. We witness the best and worst of the disciples: they faithfully follow Jesus in the boat but then are overcome in the storm. (How often do we start strong with good intentions but grow weary and falter; stay faithful, don't give up.)

IV. So what?

- a. We see the reality of Jesus' power and the magnitude of his power; therefore, we can trust him even as he puts us through storms of life
- b. There will be chaos in this broken world; but Jesus has authority over it all
- c. God is faithful even when we feel like we're losing our faith
- d. We will face storms in life; often the things in our life that gives us confidence will fail us; we may be shaken to the core of our being; let us cry out to God; on what kind of foundation have you built your life?
- e. There will be a day when our storms will cease (*Rev. 21:1b*)