

What Can Jesus Do In The Storm?

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. 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?" 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. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" 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?"

I. Storms Are Invariably Unpredictable – Vss. 35 – 38a.

The first thing I noticed was Jesus in back asleep. He was tired from teaching and from criticisms. Remember, He is our High Priest touched with feeling of our infirmities. The second thing I noticed was the disciples doing the driving. A recipe for disaster.

Such storms result from differences in temperatures between the seacoast and the mountains beyond. As the sea heats up during the day the vapor rises. The cool, heavier air comes down off of the mountain fill the void left by the vapor. This results in strong winds dropping to the sea, funneling through the hills. The Sea of Galilee is small, and these winds descend directly to the center of the lake with violent results. When the contrasting air masses meet, a storm arises quickly and without warning. Matthew uses *siesmos* to describe it, the only place it is translated "tempest." Everywhere else it is "earthquake."

II. The Inevitability of Storms – Vs. 38

The storms come sooner or later. The Sea of Galilee is relatively shallow. A shallow lake is "whipped up" by wind more rapidly than deep water, where energy is more readily absorbed. Shallow faith more easily disturbed than deep faith.

You can be sailing in the ship of your life and the sea of circumstances can be as smooth as glass, but just one phone call from a doctor, a hospital, a police department, and you are in the middle of a storm.

Obedience doesn't forestall the storm, but it does activate the promises of Jesus in the middle of the storm.

III. The Authority of The Savior – Vss. 39-41, Jam. 1:2-4, Lk. 8, Ps. 107:29, Mark 5:1, Isa. 43:2

That sends shivers up my spine, the audacity of asking Jesus, "Don't you care?" If he sees a sparrow fall, does he not know about the bills, the child, the workplace, the problems of life that crush in about you.

Then He Stands! They did not want *didaskalos*, they needed *epistatas*.

We Need Storms! Jesus did not stand for Himself, He stood for us. He stood to bring peace to my life and yours. And all He has to do is speak a word because his power is greater than our storms.