

**Mark 4:35-41 (ESV)**<sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."<sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.<sup>37</sup>And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.<sup>38</sup>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?"<sup>39</sup>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.<sup>40</sup>He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"<sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?"

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

"Our Father who art in heaven" formed, fashioned, and made the first two people to live in the Garden of Eden. Before Adam and Eve, humans did not exist. God formed and fashioned them supernaturally for God is all powerful. God the Father created Adam and Eve in God's image. The first couple had incredible worth for they were made by God. They had specific Father-like qualities. The Father speaks and so do Adam and Eve. The Father has emotions and so do Adam and Eve. The Father thinks and so do Adam and Eve. The Father makes decisions and so do Adam and Eve. The best part of God's created universe were Adam and Eve. God brought them together and God officiated over the first marriage service, bringing one man and one woman together for a lifetime, God's perfect order for marriage.

The Father gave to them everything that they needed. Greatest of all, they had God to themselves. They did not lack for anything for God supplied all of their needs. The Father did everything right for His first two children.

You know the rest of the story. Yes, it is Father's Day. I want us to say Happy Father's Day to God the Father. 1. **Please say, "Happy Father's Day Father."** 2. **All of life comes from God as does eternal life.** The Father is the originator of life, not nature, not an alien from outer space, not some chemicals that got together millions of years ago. No, God is the author,

the originator, the creator of life. **3. If it were not for God there would be no life. You owe your entire existence to God. "Happy Father's Day Father."**

4. **Life with Christ and life without Christ described.** When you do not know who Jesus is, you are completely on your own. Life without Jesus is like being out in the ocean without a rudder, without a sail, without a map, without GPS, thinking you are the master of your own fate. Your life is actually being led by the winds of the culture, the current atmosphere of the moment, the spirit of the age. 5. **Life without Jesus has no foundation, no unseen source of safety and protection, no sense of belonging, no source of eternal love, and no hope of eternal life. The soul without Jesus is in utter darkness.**

6. **Jesus gives to our lives a sense of solidness.** Jesus gives to our lives a sense of belonging for we belong to God. Jesus gives to our lives a sense of great hope because no matter what happens to us here, we have eternal bliss to look forward to. Jesus gives to us direction and purpose in life for we are here to please the Lord. Jesus directs our lives. Jesus fills our souls with His light and perfect love without end. Jesus gives to us eternal life and death is no longer our enemy. 7. **Death becomes our friend that ushers us into the fullness of God's Presence.** With Jesus in our lives, we have everything. Without Jesus we run our lives on empty. Jesus came to give to us fullness of life, life in abundance.

Jesus called 12 men to follow Him. He hand-picked 12 and for three years poured His life into them. Everywhere they traveled Jesus taught them. They were his official learners. All that Jesus is was first understood by the disciples. What we know about Jesus comes from the hand of the disciples, passed down from one generation to the next. After Pentecost, after they were filled with the Holy Spirit, there was no stopping them. We are the recipient of their message of Jesus.

8. **Early on in the ministry of Jesus the disciples truly did not understand who Jesus was.** Out of all the disciples, John was the first one to truly catch on and to be fair, so did

Peter. It is interesting to me how children can come from the same family whose parents are both solid believers in Jesus Christ. Some of the children catch on to how important Jesus is, and others could care less. Just the opposite is true. Neither parent knows Jesus but somehow God gives the children a hunger to know Jesus and that they do. Sometimes children are responsible for bringing the parents to faith. Jesus, the master teacher and communicator often had 12 baffled disciples. I do not fault the disciples for they did not have the inner assurance that only the Holy Spirit can give, assuring them that everything Jesus says is right and true. After Pentecost they served the Lord Jesus until they breathed their last breath. The Holy Spirit brought to their minds everything that Jesus taught them including the story we are about to study.

Jesus had spent the entire day teaching. Only those who teach know how tiring that can be. After I participate in three worship services, I am drained. I have nothing left to give. I go home and sit in my chair and can fall asleep rather easily. Good teachers give all that they have and do not hold back. Jesus was the best teacher of all. All of his words were words of eternal life. Jesus was completely fatigued and for good reason. He was teaching people who would rather not hear what He had to say, including his family. 9. **Many of the hearers were hoping to hear something that they could use to trip Him up and embarrass Him in public.** That is the most draining of all.

The disciples took Jesus and put him in the boat just as he was, tired, drained, and pooped out from all that He had taught and from his interactions with the listeners. The disciples gave to Him the comfortable seat, the seat in the stern that would have a carpet and pillow. Immediately Jesus fell asleep. There were other boats that went across the lake with them.

The sea of Galilee was notorious for its storms (William Barclay, Mark pg. 115). Because of the topography around the lake there would be windstorms from a variety of directions that

were dangerous and potentially deadly. The Sea could be calm one minute and the next minute a dangerous storm would approach and there you were. My parents were on the Sea of Galilee when a storm came up which gave them a much greater appreciation for this passage in the Bible. Maybe some of you have too.

Friends, when you are out to sea and the wind is so strong that you do not see yourself making any headway and the boat is filling with water, you better be ready to meet your maker. I do not know how much fear you have ever experienced. If there was a fearometer on the boat, it would have broken through the top number. When some are fear ridden they are incapable of moving. Fear is a real emotion and can be paralyzing.

When water is filling a boat faster than you can bail it out, you know you are in trouble, especially when you are too far away from land to make it there by swimming. .

The men needed all hands on deck. 10. **Their fear led to great anger toward Jesus.** He was sound asleep, and they were about to drown. Friends, when you are fatigued to the max and drained of your inner resources, it is amazing what you can sleep through. Furiously they shook Jesus. "Wake up!" "Wake up!" "Don't you care that we are about to die?"

When we are full of fear almost anything and everything can come out of our mouths. Some of our biggest and most destructive things we say comes out at a time of great fear and impending doom. People are like tea bags. You put them in hot water and their true selves come out. The boat was filling with water, and they literally thought they were going to die. Jesus was sound asleep. When you are working your tail off and you see someone sloughing off, it is easy to blow your cork.

It is my belief that Jesus trusted in the Father to the maximum and that is why Jesus could sleep peacefully through any storm. Jesus was not being irresponsible. Jesus knew with absolute certainty that the Father was in charge and all the Son had to do was trust in the

Father's goodness to solve and take care of all situations. Jesus was sleeping peacefully, full of peace, and the disciples were fully awake filled with terror.

When you and I experience storms, it is easy to react in fear and maybe a little anger. The more severe the storm the greater the fear and anger. "God, are you taking a nap." "God, do you no longer care?" "God, did you just make your first mistake?" "Hello, is anybody up there?" "Yoo-hoo!" Sometimes when I am filled with such fear I just take it all out on the first person I see. "Oh, Lord, please forgive me."

"Jesus wake up." "We are about to die." Jesus woke up, rebuked the wind, and said with great authority, "Peace." "Be still." "The wind ceased and there was great calm."

11. **When storms come your way, please know that God is by far more powerful than the storm.** In one day's time you may lose your job, get a bad medical report, and hear sad news from one or all of your children as did Job. Job lost all of his children in one fire. You think the storm is going to end you when it is God's plan to end the storm and fill you with great calmness, and peace. Or it is God's plan go give you great calmness and peace as the storm rages around you.

Friends, God is more powerful than any and all circumstances that come our way. Your prayers do not wake Jesus up for God neither sleeps nor slumbers. 12. **Your prayers present your needs to God. Praying is a way of releasing your fears and anger to God.** God can handle all of it and please do not hold back pouring out your heart to God. 13. **Your prayers will not shake God, but your prayers may stop you from shaking. God's perfect love has a way of easing our fears and calming our angry moods and outbursts.**

Recently I heard something that really bothered me. It was not a huge storm, but it was a storm. My wife spoke a word of faith to me and then said, "Will you be able to sleep tonight?" The word of faith she spoke put me to sleep, peacefully, calmly. My thoughts were put on Jesus, and the storm was no longer on the horizon.

**14. Fear paralyzes. Trust in God sets one free.** Anger can be so destructive. God's ways are always instructive. Storms are sure to come. Each one is for your good and for the greater glory of God. God promises to bring good out of each one. It is how we grow. Amen and Amen.