

THE CASE OF THE GREAT STORM

MARK 4:35-41

Text:

Introduction:

It had been a long and difficult day for the Lord Jesus. The events of this day began in Mark 3:20.

He had sat in a ship just off the shore of the Sea of Galilee. He had used that ship as His pulpit as He preached to the great multitudes that had gathered to hear Him. When the day was over, He called His disciples to set sail for the other side of the lake.

When darkness fell, the disciples were making their way across that little lake. While they headed for the other shore, Jesus lay fast asleep in the rear of the ship. He was weary from the business of the day. Most of these men were used to being on the Sea of Galilee at night. They were, after all, fishermen.

Some events that would occur this night would change their lives and their perception of the Lord Jesus.

These men found themselves in the storm of their lives.

They experienced the Lord's power to deliver them.

1. IT WAS A NIGHT OF GREAT DANGERS (VS. 37)

Mark 4:37

³⁷ And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

A. The Suddenness of the Storm – a great storm of wind

Storms like this are very common on the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is an unusual body of water. It is relatively small (thirteen miles long, seven miles wide); but it is 150 feet deep, and the shoreline is 680 feet below sea level. Because the Sea of Galilee is below sea level and is surrounded by mountains, it is susceptible to sudden storms.

Winds sweeping across the land come up and over the mountains, creating downdrafts over the lake. Combined with a thunderstorm that appears suddenly over the surrounding mountains, the water stirs into violent twenty-foot waves. The sea can be calm one minute and violent the next.

B. The Severity of the Storm – the ship was now full

These seasoned fishermen are frightened by the severity of this storm. The ship is rocking and reeling; it is full of water and they are afraid it is about to sink. It was a violent storm and it was night time too. They could not see where they were or how close they were to the shore and the other ships around them. They were in terrible danger, and they feared for their lives.

We face severe storms today:

- Storms of suffering
- Storms of sorrow

2. IT WAS A NIGHT OF GREAT DOUBTS (VS. 35, 38)

Mark 4:35

³⁵ And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

Mark 4:38

³⁸ And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

The greatest storm that night was not on the Sea of Galilee, but in the hearts of the disciples. This storm on the sea whipped up a storm of doubt within them that threatened to drown them all.

While the storm is raging around them, Jesus is fast asleep in the back of the boat.

They run to Him and wake Him up.

These men are terrified and have lost all hope of ever surviving this storm.

A. They Doubted His Concern for Them – “carest thou not”

They accused the Lord of not caring about what they were facing. Why this doubt? After all, they had already seen Jesus conquer Devils, Disease, and Depravity.

Now, they are faced with a storm and they are afraid.

They were looking at situations and not at the Savior.

They had their thoughts on the facts and not on faith.

B. They Doubted His Commitment to Them – “we perish”

Remember, it was Jesus Who had sent them out onto the sea in the first place. These men had left everything to follow Jesus and now He has led them into an impossibly dangerous situation. They are afraid the Jesus is just going to let them all die.

3. IT WAS A NIGHT OF GREAT DISCOVERIES (vs. 39-41)

Mark 4:39-41

³⁹ And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

⁴⁰ And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

When they roused the Lord from sleep, He began to work. As He did, they made some precious discoveries about the Lord.

They discovered:

A. The Power of the Lord

This storm that so terrified these men posed no problem for the Lord Jesus.

He rebuked the wind and spoke to the sea. When He did, the winds fell silent and the sea became as a sheet of glass. Just as easily as He had healed the sick and cast out the devils; He was able to control the storm.

B. The Promises of the Lord

Just as He said, they passed over, Mark 5:1. They learned that He was as good as His Word!

C. The Presence of the Lord

When the Lord is in the vessel, you have an advantage. The Bible says in verse 36 that there “were also with him other little ships.” There were many boats on that sea that night, but only one contained the Lord.

D. The Purpose of the Lord

The storm taught these men a lesson they could have learned no other way. It would have been nice if they would simply have believed Him after seeing Him do all the great things He did in chapters one and two. It would have been great if they could have taken the things the Lord did for others and applied it to their own lives.

If they could have said, “You know, if Jesus can heal a leper, cure Peter’s mother-in-law, cast out devils, heal that guy with the palsy and forgive his sins, then I am sure that He can take care of this storm too.”

But, they seemed unable to process that information and apply it to their own lives. So, He sent them into this storm to teach them to trust Him.

Sometimes, He sends the storms to educate us and to teach us to trust. His purpose is not to hurt us, but to grow us. You can always trust the Lord to do right in the storms of life.

E. The Peace of the Lord

While they are fretting and fearing, what is the Lord doing? He is sleeping! Why? He knows that He is in the center of His Father's will. He knows that He will die on a cross and not in a shipwreck. He can sleep during the storm because He trusts His Father to take care of Him.

F. The Person of the Lord

When Jesus calmed the sea, they were amazed and said, "What manner of man is this?" They learned that He is the One Who is in control of every puff of wind; every angry wave and every storm.

Close:

I don't know about your storm, but I know Who can still it. If it is a storm of suffering; He can ease your pain. If it is a storm of sorrow; He can comfort your soul. If it is a storm of sin; He can deliver you and set you free.