

## Peace Be Still

[Mar 4:35-41 ESV] 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, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. 38 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?" 39 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. 40 He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 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. Intro

- A. Being a committed follower of Christ causes us to grow in our faith, Hope, and Love
  - 1. We learn to trust Christ more along the way
  - 2. But its usually because we have been in a position to need to trust Him
  - 3. Those moments where we realize we are powerless, yet God intervenes or provides, or directs in a way that only he can.
- B. The disciples were learning much about the kingdom of God, they were about to learn about the power of God
- C. All powerful, sovereign God is continuing His work today, and we can trust Him in that work.
- D. Jesus has demonstrated He has power over disease, demons, and religious understanding of the day, and now even the wind and waves obey
  - 1. This is the same power that created the world
  - 2. This is the same power over your life
  - 3. This is the power that calms the storm, or calms His child in the middle of the storm.

### II. Text

- A. Verse 35:
  - 1. Just after the teaching through parables and the difficult truth that not all were going to understand
  - 2. He takes them away from the crowds into the boat to go to the other side.
- B. Verse 36:
  - 1. They left the crowd and got in the boat
  - 2. Just as He was:
    - a) He didn't take anything with him
    - b) He didn't get prepared
    - c) He just got in the boat
- C. Verse 37-38: A great windstorm, yet Jesus is asleep on a cushion
  - 1. "Things got western"
    - a) I'm probably the only one who has ever heard this phrase
    - b) But it fits, because it applies to situations that start off normal, and get out of hand
    - c) This was a normal crossing, that went western when the storm hits
  - 2. The Accusation:
    - a) "Do you not care that we are perishing"
    - b) Sometimes we feel this way as well
  - 3. They started with the word teacher, or rabbi, and missed the irony completely
    - a) This was no longer a lecture
    - b) This was an immersive object lesson
- D. Verse 39:
  - 1. He awoke
  - 2. Rebuked the wind and the sea, "Peace, Be Still"
  - 3. The wind ceased and there was great calm

- E. Verse 40: He addresses His disciples:
    - 1. Why are you so afraid?
    - 2. Have you still no faith?
  - F. Verse 41:
    - 1. They were filled with great fear:
      - a) They were afraid during the storm, but they had great fear at the power of Christ
      - b) The greek words: megas phobeo
- III. Point: The words of Christ, in this order, apply today just as clearly
- A. Lets go.
    - 1. Follow ME...
    - 2. Many times we hear God give us direction to move, redirect, or follow Him
      - a) These are moments of change, of surrender, of growing trust and faith.
      - b) Many times, we say yes, sometimes we do not, but we find ourselves stepping out in uncertainty when we obey.
    - 3. He had compelled the disciples to follow him by a simple request, yet they did not know what they were getting in to.
    - 4. Here, it was a simple statement, that was going to be a core moment for their life.
    - 5. Choose wisely who you follow, and make sure they are trustworthy.
      - a) To this point the disciples had seen healings, miracles, instruction, care, compassion, and service
      - b) But no one had ever seen anything like what they were about to witness!
  - B. Peace Be Still!
    - 1. There is adventure in following Jesus,
      - a) adventure like this requires faith
      - b) There is no level of preparedness that will account for every adventure, sometimes it takes divine intervention.
    - 2. Jesus was taking a nap, be like Jesus
    - 3. The Disciples were handling the boat, as they were skilled to do.
      - a) They knew the Sea of Galilee
      - b) They knew how to handle a boat
      - c) They were prepared and educated
      - d) AND YET...THINGS GOT OUT OF THEIR ABILITY QUICKLY
    - 4. They wake up Jesus, and He speaks
      - a) How do you think He said it
        - (1) With a loud voice?
        - (2) With a soft voice?
      - b) It wasn't the force behind His words that accomplished the miracle, it was the power He possessed as God who became flesh and dwelt among us.
      - c) The Wind and the Sea obey, because even nature has to bend its will when God speaks.
    - 5. When you find yourself in a storm, you find an opportunity to see God intervene, and grow in your trust of Him.
  - C. Why are you so afraid?
    - 1. Jesus turns to the disciples and asked them why they are so afraid.
    - 2. The answer: There was a big scary storm and we were all about to drown
      - a) This was a natural fact, and a reason to be afraid
      - b) But Jesus had already said "Let's go to the other side."
      - c) That matters, because Jesus had already spoken on the matter.
    - 3. When Jesus speaks, we can trust.
    - 4. He had already said they were going to the other side.
      - a) He did not mention that it was going to get wild and dangerous along the way.
      - b) He didn't need to tell them that, because he had already told them they were going across.
    - 5. The teacher is allowing His students a learning and growing opportunity

6. And we get the same opportunity as we follow Him today.
- D. Have you still no faith?
1. This may sound harsh, this may sound challenging, but in reality its instructional
  2. Through this question, Jesus is reminding His disciples of all the other miraculous things they have observed, and this one caused the disciples to learn and grow.
  3. Jesus has been teaching them about:
    - a) The growth of a disciple
    - b) The authority He has over all things regarding the Jewish practice of religion
    - c) Authority over disease and physical impairments
    - d) Authority over evil Spirits
    - e) NOW EVEN THE WIND AND WAVES OBEY
  4. This would have been a difficult lesson to learn, but they were watching it happen before them.
  5. Jesus is going to grow His disciple. Fact.
  6. The closer you get in surrender, the less fear and more faith you will have.
- IV. Close
- A. We can see this pattern in our relationship with Christ.
  - B. He says lets go...we follow by some measure of faith
  - C. Things get challenging...We wonder where God is and if He even cares about us.
  - D. He calms the storm, provides, or teaches us to trust Him until He moves...and we remember all the other times
  - E. And then we are confronted by our limited faith, a reminder of God's faithfulness, and our need for Him...and we grow!
  - F. As you navigate this in your life:
    1. We need to see God work, but we need to continue trusting that He is.
    2. When you have given up on a situation that is a storm in your life, you need a reminder of the power of God to calm the storm.
    3. But if He doesn't calm the storm in your time frame, you still need to continue by faith, and in faithful service.