

THE SERVANT KING CALMS THE STORM *(Mark 4:35-41)*

This account of Jesus on the sea is the first in a series revealing our Lord as a worker of miracles—He is all man, but He is all powerful God. The passage reminds us that for believers, Jesus’ sovereign saving presence is the source of our peace and security.

I. LESSONS FROM THE STORM (vv. 35-38)

1. Jesus wanted to go to the other side of the lake for a time of rest or to share with others.
 - Other boats went with them (v.36).
 - A storm, like many on that lake, arose without much warning.
 - The Greek word used here (seismos) literally means *earthquake*. It can also mean *hurricane*.
 - Even those experienced fishermen were afraid.
2. Yet, Jesus was asleep in the boat.
 - Here we see the beauty of the incarnation: Jesus was humanly so exhausted that the storms didn’t wake Him. Yet He would have the power to calm the seas.
 - The disciples woke and rebuked Him.
3. They were learning that storms are part of the process of spiritual growth.
 - Difficulties, trials, stresses, and failures are vehicles for teaching us about God and His power in our lives.
 - We would be self-centered, proud and empty without these things which bring us to the places where we must depend on God.
4. The disciples perceived that they had been left alone, that Jesus was indifferent to their plight.
 - God knows everything: every wave that falls on us, our inmost thoughts and fears, our emotions, our heart rate. Nothing escapes His watchful eye.
 - He is with us always – even in death.

II. LESSONS FROM THE CALM (vv. 39-41)

1. The terminology used in Jesus’ stilling of the storm is the same language used of an exorcism.
 - The Greek word *epitiman*, or “rebuked,” is the same word used twice earlier when Jesus was rebuking evil spirits.
2. Jesus says, “Be still.” The Greek word for that, *pephimoso*, is literally translated as “muzzled.”
 - Its verb tense is a continuous state of being. Jesus was saying, “Be still and stay still.”
 - The forces of nature – creation itself – obey Him.
3. Jesus asked them the question we must all answer: “Do you trust me?”
 - Notice this: they were terrified. They were more afraid of Jesus than they were of the storm.
 - We should ask ourselves the same question. Our response should not be terror, but a respect for the power He holds not only over life and death but even over the eternal soul.

Do you believe in His power? Do you believe in His love? Jesus is in the boat with us. God protects His sheep; none of us will go before our time. Is there some challenge you feel you cannot handle? What should you do? Friends, exercise faith and lay down your fear.