

fear*less

1. WHO IS IN THE BOAT?

HVC, April 26, 2020

Mark 4:35-41 (NLT)

Have you ever been in a storm on the water? What was that like?

What's the worst storm you've ever experienced?

Mk. 1:21-39 ... Take a moment to look at a day in Jesus' life. What do you think it was like for Jesus to go through days like this? The disciples? For you?

Mark 4:35 (NLT)

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake."

Why do you think Jesus wanted to go to the other side of the lake? (opinion question)

Do you ever hear Jesus telling you to slow down and rest?

Mark 4:36-37 (NLT)

So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

Have you ever done something because you believed it was what God wanted you to do ... and got caught in a "storm"?

What significance might there be to the fact that the disciples were in the boat together?

How important is "community" in facing storms? How has the fellowship and support of other believers helped you in 'storms'?

On a scale of 1-10, how serious was this crisis? Have you ever been that close to death? What was it like?

What frightens you more ... Tornado? Hurricane? Flood? Earthquake? Thunderstorm?

Mark 4:38 (NLT)

Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

Describe some of the emotions and thoughts that the disciples must be having.

Why do you think they woke him up? What did they expect? How were they viewing Jesus at this point?

When have you felt like God "didn't care" about your situation?

Mark 4:39 (NLT)

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm.

What do you suppose were Jesus' first thoughts upon awakening? Why?

How comforting is it to you to know that God responds to our cries?

Mark 4:40 (NLT)

Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

How would you describe Jesus' attitude and tone when asking these questions?

Why might he have expected them to respond differently? How might they have responded differently?

Respond to this quote: **Amy Simpson** - ... *we don't seem to give much thought to why worry offends God.*

Why do you think worry does "offend" God?

OR, why is it a kind of insult to God?

What did you think of Dallas Willard's 3 levels of faith?

1. Faith of **RESPECTABILITY** (propriety)
2. Faith of **DESPERATION**
3. Faith of **SUFFICIENCY** ... **ABUNDANT** Faith

Respond to this remark by **Dallas Willard** – [People with respectable faith] *have a proper faith in terms of what they need to believe to go to heaven when they die, but they hope that God is never going to put them in a position of needing to actually trust him before they get there.*

SEEK GOD

What does this mean to you?

What are some "substitutes" we use instead of seeking God directly?

BE HONEST WITH GOD

How easy does this come to you?

Why is it hard?

When has this been a spiritual breakthrough for you?

SPEND TIME WITH GOD

What works best for you in doing this?

Did you understand Frank's distinction between ...
Fear and worry?

Fear and anxiety disorders?

What questions do those distinctions raise for you?

Have you ever had a "panic attack"? What was it like? What helped?

Mark 4:41 (NLT)

The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

How has your understanding of Jesus changed in the last few years? What about him puzzles you now?

Does their fear (after the storm) make sense to you? Why/not?

When do you think you have you felt something like this in your own life?

What is the thing you're most afraid of today? Where in your life do you need to hear Jesus' word of peace?

How would your life be different if you were able to advance in your faith beyond "just getting through"?