
Storms:

The Classrooms of Grace

Mark 4:35-41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he told them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the sea."

36 So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him.

37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher! Don't you care that we're going to die?" ...

39 He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Silence! Be still!” The wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 Then he said to them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

41 And they were terrified and asked one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

Mark 4:35-41

Mark 4:35–41 shows us three great revelations about Jesus' lordship in chaos to lead us to know and trust Him more deeply in every storm.

1. THE LORD'S PROVIDENCE – A GREAT WINDSTORM (VV.35-38)

Mark 4

35 On that day, when evening had come, he told them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the sea."
36 So they left the crowd and took him along since he was in the boat. And other boats were with him.

The disciples are in the boat—and soon into the storm—not because they disobeyed Jesus, but because they obeyed Him.

God providentially uses the storms of life as classrooms of grace to lead us to know and trust Him more deeply.

Mark 4

37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking over the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped.

In the Ancient Near East, water wasn't just a physical element, it also symbolized chaos, danger, and the unknown. The sea was a chaotic force that only the gods could tame—Baal in Canaanite belief and Yahweh for Israel.

Mark 4

38 He was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion. So they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher! Don't you care that we're going to die?"

“Trials and tribulations, difficulties and desperate moments are when God does His greatest work in our lives. When He brings us to the end of ourselves, we are driven to Him and Him alone...”

– Danny Akin

“God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we can trust His heart.”

– Charles Spurgeon

2. THE LORD'S POWER – A GREAT CALM (vv.39-40)

Mark 4

39 He got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Silence! Be still!" The wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

The very One who hovered over the waters at creation (Gn. 1:2), the very One who split the sea like a highway for Israel's deliverance (Ex. 14), is the very One who was in their boat.

Mark 4

**40 Then [Jesus] said to them, “Why are you afraid?
Do you still have no faith?”**

In chaos, we can live as if what we fear is more powerful than the One we follow.

“Peace doesn’t come from controlling your life; it comes from surrendering to the One who does.”

– Paul David Tripp

3. THE LORD'S PRESENCE – A GREAT TERROR (v.41)

Mark 4

41 And they were [greatly] terrified, and asked one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

Mark created a literary design here: The disciples were caught in a great storm (v.37), They witnessed a great calm (v.39), and now They're gripped by a great terror (v.41).

A lesson from the classroom of grace: Fear of the Lord casts out fear of lesser things.

"You will either fear the storm or fear the One who is sovereign over it. One fear brings panic, the other brings peace."

– Ray Ortlund Jr.

**“I have learned to kiss the wave that throws me
against the Rock of Ages.”**

– Charles Spurgeon