**Faith: Jesus calms the seas and walks on them too**

**EYES ON JESUS**

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Mark 4 is an all-day teaching seminar that Jesus held on the western coast of Galilee. He taught several parables throughout the day to a crowd gathered along the shore while he spoke from a boat in the water. As the day ends, Jesus is tired and he and the disciples are getting into boats to cross the Sea of Galilee from the western shore, to the eastern side (the region of the Gadarenes).

**MARK 4:35-41 J**esus Calms the Storm

**35**As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.” **36**So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). **37**But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

**38**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?”

**39**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. **40**Then he asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

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

1. I’ve been on boat rides across in Galilee several times. We are told that every once in a while a “squall” appears. This is a sudden intense weather system that appears out of nowhere and is associated with heavy wind, rain and waves. This happened to us on our first trip across the Galilee and it is terrifying. Ours was not so severe that the boat was filling up, but I can imagine how scary it would have been for the disciples.
2. While this was happening, Jesus was asleep on a cushion at the stern of the boat. The disciples would have frantically been trying to do whatever they could to save their vessel in the storm, yet Jesus was “sleeping in heavenly peace”.
3. They shouted at him and woke him up. When he awoke, he immediately rebuked the wind and waves and calmed the storm. Then he seemed to chastise them for their lack of faith saying: “"Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

This always seemed a little unfair to me. I always felt that Jesus was a little too hard on them for freaking out when it seemed like the boat was about to capsize in the storm. One version says; "Why are you such cowards? Don't you have any faith yet?"

But I know that Jesus is never unfair, he is patient and kind, so there must be something I was missing

Let’s re-read these seven verses, paying careful attention what was said in this short passage and see if we can understand a little more about this.

**Mark 4:35 35**As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, **“Let’s cross to the other side of the lake.”**

*This is Jesus’ idea. Not theirs. He did not even say let’s go out to sea, he said let’s* ***cross over*** *(to the region of the* Gadarenes*). This is where the faith/trust issue is centered. When Jesus says something, we should believe him and trust that it is truth.*

**Mark 4:36-38 36**So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). **37**But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

**38**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?”**

*This statement shows where the lack of faith was demonstrated. Jesus told then that they will cross over, They told him that they were “going to drown.” (Big difference!)*

**Mark 4:39****39**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.

*This is where they begin to see the type of authority he operated in. Up until this point in the book of Mark, His miracles were; healing and casting out demons. This was different. This time He displayed that he was in charge of even the laws of nature.*

**Mark 4:40**Then he asked them, **“Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?”**

I’ve heard this passage preached many times where the Disciples were criticized because they were foolish enough to even think that with Jesus in the boat that the storm could actually drown them, and Jesus was simply pointing out their foolishness.

I’ve come to read this differently.

**PART 2**

Jesus was still in teaching mode. He was teaching them about who He is and who they are as well. A big part of teaching, is demonstrating,…being a living example of the very truths you are trying to impart in others.

He was demonstrating to them how he *“trusts / has faith in”* God and how they can “Trust / have faith in” Him.

Why was Jesus sleeping, while the disciples were freaking out? Jesus trusted God and knew that His time had not come, the disciples were still figuring out who he really was. Yes, they believed that He was the son of God and he could heal and deliver people, but this took it to a whole new level.

[you may find that in this current crisis, that you have peace and calm security, while others you know are freaking out. We need to “demonstrate” what it is to *trust in God*]

**JESUS WALKS ON WATER**

**Matt 14:22-33 22**Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. **23**After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone.

**24**Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. **25**About three o’clock in the morningJesus came toward them, walking on the water. **26**When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!”

**27**But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. I am here!”

**28**Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.”

**29**“Yes, come,” Jesus said.

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. **30**But when he saw the strong wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted.

**31**Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me?”

**32**When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. **33**Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

The big lesson in both of these passages is FAITH.

The apostle’s FAITH in Jesus was put to the test.

***FAITH -*** *WHAT IS IT?*

*Hebrews 11:1* **Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

**FAITH = TRUST**

**(Greek: Pistis)**

***FAITH sounds more religious, TRUST sounds more relational.***

***Trusting BOTH in the area of Ability, and Integrity***

*HOW DO YOU GET IT?*

***PART 3***

***Romans 10:17* So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Peter wanted to walk on water, just like Jesus. He believed it must be possible.

He knew that he could not do it unless the Lord said “COME”.

**v.28**“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

**v.29** “**Come,”** he said.

Peter asked and received the word of faith.

He DID NOT step out of the boat until he heard Jesus say “COME”.

If Jesus had not said COME, Peter would have sank immediately if he tried.

Faith comes by HEARING the Word of the Lord, we need to learn to listen, hear and recognize His voice.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1)

It is NOT just “The desire for things hoped for”

We can’t just conjure up a bunch of hope, and then call it faith.

*That is just selfish ambition.*

When we hear a Word or words from God, believe it, and act upon it, that’s faith.

*Pistis = Faith / Trust and also BELIEF*

**The way we show our Faith/Trust in God, is by BELIEVING in Him.**

* **The apostles in the boat did not fully believe that they would get to the other side, even though Jesus said they would.**
* **Peter walked on water in response to *Jesus call* to “come” but immediately feared sinking into the water and no longer believed he could walk on the water with Jesus.**

**Believing is core to our faith. It is the expression of trust. It’s the very thing that makes us “Believers”**

**Do you Believe?**

**Romans 10:9-11**

**9**that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10**For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**11***For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*

*CJB: 11 “***11**For the passage quoted says that *everyone* who **rests his trust on** him **will not be humiliated”**

Yes, in order to be saved, it is imperative that you **believe** in the Lordship of Jesus the Messiah, and the fact that he *literally rose from the dead. (we talked about this at Wed Worship and the Word)*

But to live in the *confidence* and *security* of the Lord, we need to *trust him in all things*

**Rom 10:11** “For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

*What scripture? And why such a concern about being humiliated or put to shame?*

The scripture that Paul is quoting is:

**Isaiah 28:16**

“**16**So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;  
the one who relies on it will never be *stricken with panic.” (NIV)*

Jesus is our cornerstone, our sure foundation. When we rely on Him., we will not be stricken with panic, we will not fear, we will not be shaken.

The disciples in the boat were just beginning to learn that they can trust Jesus in all things. Some of them went on to write some of the most inspiring scriptures about trusting God in adverse circumstances.

Many of them went on to endure hardships, persecution, and even martyrdom, but their faith was not shaken, their trust in the Lord was not destroyed.

The apostle Paul found himself living in very difficult circumstances at the end of his life.

He had no Golden Years comfortable retirement plan in place as he faced he final years of his life.

He was in prison in Rome during the reign of Nero, one of the most brutal Roman Dictators in history. Prisoners like Paul were regularly burned alive or fed to wild animals.

So his circumstances were way worse than what you and I are living under today,

It wasn’t just a matter of not being able to go to your favorite restaurant, or not being able to take a walk in a state park, or having to dress like a surgeon to go grocery shopping.

He was in a Roman prison, being brutally treated and not knowing which day he will be put to death.

*Here’s what he writes:*

**Phil 4:6-13 “**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **7**and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**8**Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. **9**The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

**10**But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last yourcare for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. **11**Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: **12**I know how to be abased, and I know how to [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians+4%3A6-13&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29455c)]abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

***“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”***

Many times this verse is used to talk about the great supernatural things that we can accomplish through God’s power. I have heard it used by athletes competing for a championship, or student’s studying for a major exam,

But here, in it’s context, Paul is saying that he can endure all suffering through Christ who strengthens him.

He could have said: *“I can get through any type of tough situation I ever face, because of Jesus who empowers me”*

That’s what we need today.

I know it’s hard in these times, we are constantly being bombarded with bad news, the pandemic does not seem to be letting up, we are living in an uncomfortable contorted lifestyle, grieving those we have lost, worrying about those who are sick and trying our best to remain healthy.

But Just like the apostles in that boat during the raging storm, remember Jesus is with you. He will never leave you or forsake you, He knows your weakness and your fears, and is your refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**Don’t fear, don’t despair and don’t give up…**

***“You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you”***

**Aaronic Blessing:**

* The Lord bless you and keep you;
* The Lord make his face shine on you
* and be gracious to you;
* The Lord turn his face toward you
* and give you peace.