A Tale of Two Storms

Zanesville, OH | April 22, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Mark 4:35-41

**Intro**:

* Many of Jesus’ miracles were done with a specific purpose in mind. After all, Jesus came to fulfill a mission the Father sent Him on. On one particular occasion, Jesus performed a great deed of divine nature. That is found in **Mark 4:35-41**.

**The Storm on the Sea**

1. **The fierce storm: Mark 4:37**
   * Take note that among the people in this boat, are those who have spent almost their entire lives on the sea fishing and sailing for a living. These are men, who by all means, would be the most qualified and experienced to navigate their way out of a storm. So, you can probably imagine this wouldn’t have been the first storm these guys experienced, but according to the text it certainly was the worst they had ever seen!
2. **The desperate cry: Mark 4:38**
   * The text tells us, after noticing the gravity of the storm, the men went down into the stern to wake up a sleeping Jesus. And they cried out with desperation and urgency, *“Master, don’t you care that we are all dying?”* **Jesus, don’t you care?**
3. **The powerful rebuke: Mark 4:39**
   * With only three words, the sovereignty, majesty and almighty power of Jesus Christ is displayed. *“Peace, be still!”* And the forces of nature all fall in line and bow down at the commands of Jesus.
4. **The lack of faith: Mark 4:40-41**
   * Jesus having subdued the storm by the very command of His voice now turns to His disciples and ask, *“Why are you afraid, do you still have no faith?”* I don’t think we are to understand this as suggesting they had no faith at all, but their faith in God’s saving power was lacking. Jesus says it just wasn’t there. Thus, the parallel that concludes the story when the disciples ask, *“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”*

**The Storm in your Life**

1. **The gravity of sin: Deut. 28:15, 20-22, 25-26, 30, 32; Mark 9:43-48**
   * Like Jesus and the apostles that day, we are here on this side and we need to get over on the other side. But the dreadful storm of sin may prevent us from doing so. We cannot diminish how powerful sin is and what it can do. It can take us further that we want to go by consuming our lives, it can keep us there longer than we would like, in the end it can cost us more than we intended to pay.
2. **The desperate cry for help: Acts 2:37**
   * Like the men in that boat, we need help. Desperate help. The storm of sin weighs heavily with its burdens and consequences and at a moment’s notice we may start to sink as the ground beneath us become sinking sand. Sin is so terrible, it so disgusting and we should certainly cry out in desperation for help if we have it in our lives. But we shouldn’t question God if He cares because…
3. **The powerful rebuke: 2 Cor. 5:14-21; Rev. 1:17-18**
   * One thing has changed between that story in Mark 4:35-41 and this one. While Jesus calming the storm was such a powerful demonstration of who He was, it wasn’t as powerful as what He would do for His disciples and all men, including you and I on the cross! Everything, Jesus did was pointing to the cross. Jesus calming the storm is an ideal picture of Him dealing with the sin in our lives. Let the cross speak for itself!
4. **Do you believe? Acts 8:29-38**
   * The men in the boat in our first story did not believe in God’s saving power. Do you? You have an advantage over them, because you know Jesus. You know who He is, what He is capable of, and what He did for you. Do you have faith that He can save you and bring you over to the other side?