

**SERIES: GETTING TO KNOW JESUS**

**SUBJECT: THE SHIP THAT WILL NOT SINK**

**SCRIPTURE: MARK 4:35-41**

**SERMON NO. 8**

### **Introduction**

Some liberal theologians say that there was really no stilling of the storm. Instead, what happened was that Jesus calmed the fears of His disciples in the boat, and gave a great calm to their hearts.

The statement that Mark makes at the end of verse 36 shoots that theory right down. Mark says, "**There were also with him other little ships.**" The fact that other ships were on the lake, experiencing the storm tells us that there were eye witnesses to Mark's account of what happened. The occupants of those other boats saw the miracle and were eyewitnesses to the power that Jesus displayed as its recorded.

Imagine the huge waves and raging waters that came suddenly upon these ships, out of nowhere. You have the fearful disciples, whose ship is gradually taking on more and more water, and is close to sinking. These experienced sailors knew they were involved in something much bigger and more powerful than they could handle. And you have Jesus, fast asleep from exhaustion, in the back of the ship.

Amidst the panic of baling water, rowing oars, knocking each other down, getting in each other's way, and having no other place to turn..., the disciples shook Jesus awake, yelling at the top of their

lungs, trying to be heard over the roar of the waves, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" They thought their leader was being indifferent to their needs.

**I. THE POWER THAT JESUS DISPLAYED (37-39).** And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. 38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awak him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? 39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

**1. Disciples thought Jesus was indifferent to their situation.** The storm had already begun, when Jesus went to the back of the boat with a pillow and lay down to take a nap. And it was out of anger, frustration and panic that the disciples, at the moment of their greatest need, Jesus decided to take a nap. You see, if Jesus had gone to sleep immediately upon leaving the shore, when the disciples woke Him, they would have awakened Him to let Him know about the storm. But instead, they rebuked Him because Jesus seemed to be saying, "I don't care." They thought their leader was being indifferent to their needs.

Have you ever felt this way? Here we are in trouble or discouraged, feeling helpless, or in great despair... and it seems like God doesn't care. Nothing seems to happen when we pray to Him. We don't hear from Him when we are in panic. In our distress, He doesn't cause anything to happen to rescue us. We cry out, and there's no answer.

Jesus showed them the reality of things. He stood up, and without saying a word to those panic stricken men who were looking to

Him to help bail water, He looked out over the sea and rebuked the storm-literally the Greek says, "He muzzled the sea".

Now, I don't know what the disciples expected, but I guarantee you, that this wasn't it! Jesus uttered three words, **Peace, Be Still**. And what happened astonished the disciples because suddenly there was a great calm that came over the entire lake.

**2. The miracle that Jesus did was not calming of the storm.** The miracle was in the suddenness in which it happened. All of a sudden there was absolute stillness. - All of a sudden the waves that had been crashing over the bow and filling the boat with water were suddenly still. - All of a sudden it was as if a giant hand had pressed them down and crushed them flat. This is what impressed the disciples. From one end of the lake to the other, it was suddenly calm as glass. And they realized that they had just experienced a mighty supernatural event.

**II. JESUS QUESTIONS THE DISCIPLES (Mark 4:40).** He said unto them, why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?

**1. The main reason people become afraid is that they lose faith.** Faith is always the answer to our fears, regardless of what those fears are.

**Matthew 6:26** Behold the fowls of the air, for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

They had just seen Him cast demons out of a whole bunch of individuals. They saw Jesus heal many sick individuals with all

kinds of diseases. And here He was, in the boat with them not any of the other boats that were on the lake but He was personally in their boat. And their fate would be His fate. When Jesus is in the boat, the boat won't sink, and the storm won't last forever.

This story of Jesus calming the storm teaches us that it's our faith that is the answer to our fears. Faith in the goodness and care of God for His followers; Faith that He loves us unconditionally; and Faith that He is stronger than any of our circumstances.

**2. Failure in faith can be a doorway to greater faith. Mark 4:41** *And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*

The fear that's signified by the word "terrified" literally means reverence, respect, or to submit with humble obedience. Out of the failure of their faith there came a deeper understanding of Jesus. And this new understanding filled them with such a deep sense of awe, that they said... "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" In other words, "We want to know who this really is this person who even controls the forces of nature!"

When our faith is weak, God will not let the boat sink. He will not let us collapse under the weight of difficult times. He demonstrates in this story that -He will hold us up, -He will see us through, -He will care for us, ...and somehow in the process, He will lay a foundation of a new understanding of His might and power. That's what will enable us to grow stronger for the next time.

## **Conclusion**

When Jesus is Lord of our personal lives, He is given pre-eminence, and prominence, and trust, and commitment... then we can be assured, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that the ship won't sink, and the storm won't last forever!

Do you want that kind of help in "the ship that is your life"? You can. But it starts at the same place for everyone-Jesus has to be invited into the boat. It starts with a personal relationship with Jesus as the forgiver of your sin. Once that takes place, He can be the leader of your life.