

# Calm After The Storm

*Mark 4:35 – 5:20*

## Introduction

This passage records two miracles which clearly demonstrated Jesus' power and authority over nature and the demonic world. The calm (on the sea and in the man's behaviour) after the storm (caused by wind and demon possession) foreshadows the everlasting peace that can be found in the kingdom of God. Yet the people and demons who glimpsed Jesus' true identity were filled with great fear. Can it be that one who evoked such fear is also the one who will bring about the greatest peace?

## For Study and Discussion

- 1) Context: Mark's narrative of these events begins with "That day," (4:35) suggesting that these two incidents happened immediately after Jesus had taught them and the crowd by the lake (Sea of Galilee) starting in Mark 4:1.
  - a. Review and summarize in your own words Jesus' key teaching to the disciples as recorded in 4:1-34.
  
  - b. Based on Jesus' teaching and actions up to this point, how much do you think the disciples know about Jesus' power and identity?
  
- 2) Mark 4:35-41. Jesus Calms The Storm.
  - a. What did the disciples do and say to Jesus when the storm threatened to sink the boat? What did their words reveal about what they expected Jesus to do for them?
  
  - b. What was Jesus' response to the disciples? According to Jesus' reply, how is fear and faith related?
  
  - c. Discuss how Jesus might have expected the disciples to act in response to the life-threatening storm if they indeed have faith. What might this faith be based on?
  
  - d. Read also Matthew and Luke's account of this same incident (Matt 8:23-27, Luke 8:22-25). How did the disciples respond to Jesus's miraculous act of calming the storm? What does this reveal about their understanding of who Jesus is, before and after Jesus had calmed the storm? Consider Psalms 89:9, 93:4, Exodus 33:20, Judges 13:21-22.

- 3) Mark 5:1-20. Jesus Heals A Demon-Possessed Man.
- a. Describe the mental and physical state of the man possessed by the unclean spirit (read also Luke 8:26-29). Contrast this with how the man behaved after Jesus healed him.
  
  - b. How did the people respond to Jesus' act of healing the demon-possessed man? What might they be afraid of? Consider that the people living in this area were likely gentiles, given the location east of the Sea of Galilee and that they were keeping pigs, considered unclean by the Jews, as livestock. Do you think this is the same kind of fear that the disciples felt in Mark 4:41?
  
  - c. What did the man who was possessed and now healed ask of Jesus? What did Jesus tell him to do instead and what was the result of the man obeying Jesus' instructions?
  
  - d. Why would the possessed man who was healed beg to stay with Jesus while the rest of his countrymen begged Jesus to leave? What is the difference in their knowledge, experience, and understanding of who Jesus is?

### Discipleship Pointers

- Fear is our response when we have no control over a situation.
- Faith in God is the antidote to fear because:
  - God is the one we should rightly fear (Deuteronomy 10:12, Ecclesiastes 12:13).
  - God is mightier than anyone or anything that we may fear.
- Peace is often elusive because we have not accepted in our hearts what we know in our minds.
- We need to know the difference between:
  - being amazed at Jesus' power versus having faith in Jesus' power.
  - knowing who Jesus is versus knowing Jesus as our personal saviour.
- "The remarkable thing about fearing God is that when you fear God you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God you fear everything else." *from The Highest Good—The Pilgrim's Song Book by Oswald Chambers.*

### Family/Group Moments

- Think about the times when you went through "storms" in your life. What did you expect Jesus to do and what did you ask him to do? What did Jesus do through those "storms" and what did you learn about Jesus?
- How has your behaviour or lifestyle changed after you had experienced salvation by the grace of God? How has your testimony allowed others to know, experience, and understand who Jesus is?
- Make a list of 3 things, situations, or people that you fear the most today. How can faith in Jesus Christ help you to overcome these fears in practice?