



BIBLE STUDY

7PM

GOD
IN THE
STORM

Mark 4:35-41

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TRUE VISION CHURCH
— ACKERMAN AND LACKLAND —

GOD IN THE STORM

Mark 4:35–41

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.” 36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” 39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”

Storms reveal things about God, and about us, that calm waters never could.

The disciples had already heard Jesus teach. They had watched Him perform miracles. They had seen Him heal the sick, cast out demons, and demonstrate authority unlike anyone they had ever known. They had spent time listening to His words and observing His works. But there was something they were going to learn about Jesus on the sea that they could not learn sitting safely on the shore.

Sometimes the storm becomes the classroom.

There are some lessons we learn in the sanctuary, and there are some lessons we only learn in the storm. There are some things we learn by listening to Jesus teach, and there are other things we learn by watching Jesus work when the winds are blowing, the waves are rising, and the boat is filling with water.

On the shore, they were in the classroom. On the sea, they were in the lab.

In the classroom, Jesus taught them truth. In the lab, they had to experience and apply the truth.

On the shore, they learned the lesson. On the sea, they took the test.

On the shore, Jesus taught faith. On the sea, their faith was tested.

On the shore, they heard about His authority. On the sea, they witnessed His authority.

On the shore, they listened to what Jesus said. On the sea, they discovered what Jesus could do.

The classroom gave them information about Jesus; the laboratory gave them an experience with Jesus.

God does not intend for us to spend our whole Christian lives in the classroom. At some point, He takes what He has taught us on the shore and puts us in situations where we have to live it out on the sea.

So the storm was not a break from the lesson—the storm was part of the lesson.”

And that is often how God develops us. We would prefer to learn everything in calm conditions. We would rather learn faith without having our faith tested. We would rather learn patience without having to wait. We would rather learn trust without ever being placed in a situation where we cannot see what God is doing.

But some lessons require a storm.

1. YOU CAN BE IN GOD'S WILL AND STILL BE IN A STORM (v35)

35 “Let us go over to the other side.”

This storm did not come because the disciples were disobedient. They were in the storm because they obeyed Jesus.

Jesus told them to cross. They followed His instructions. And they still encountered a storm.

That challenges the idea that every difficulty means we have done something wrong. Jonah encountered a storm because he was running from God. These disciples encountered a storm while following with God.

Some storms come because we are out of God's will.

Some storms come while we are right in the middle of God's will.

So we should not always interpret trouble as evidence that God has abandoned us.

Notice something else: Jesus knew where they were going when He said:

35 *"Let us go over to the other side."*

The storm occurred between the departure and the destination.

He said "the other side," not "the middle of the sea."

Learn this leasson: Don't let what happens in the middle make us forget what Jesus said in the beginning.

2. HAVING JESUS IN THE BOAT DOES NOT KEEP STORMS OUT OF THE BOAT (vv. 36–37)

The boat in the passage can be a symbol of our lives.

So having Jesus in our lives doesn't keep storms out of our lives!

Verse 36 says, *"they took Him (Jesus) along...in the boat."*

Jesus was with them, yet, verse 27 says, "the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped."

We sometimes unconsciously think, If Jesus is with us, no trouble will come in our lives.

But the text teaches the opposite. His presence does not guarantee the absence of storms. You can have Jesus in the boat and still have water in the boat.

You can have faith and still have trouble. You can be saved and still suffer.

You can pray and still hurt. You can obey God and still experience circumstances that seem overwhelming.

The promise of Christianity isn't "You will never have a storm."

The promise is "You will never have to face the storm alone."

3. THE STORM THAT DISTURBS US DOESN'T DISTURB JESUS (v. 38

"Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a pillow."

There is something almost humorous about the picture.

The wind is blowing. The waves are crashing. The boat is filling. The disciples are panicking. And Jesus is sleeping.

His sleeping also gives us a beautiful glimpse of His humanity. Jesus was genuinely tired after a long day of ministry.

But there is a more profound lesson here:

The storm that frightened the disciples, did not frightened Jesus.

Their panic did not become His panic.

And sometimes when God appears silent, we interpret His silence as indifference.

That's exactly what they did, they accused Jesus of not caring about them.

38 - Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Notice their question wasn't, "Can You stop the storm?"

It was, "Do You care?"

That's often where suffering takes us.

The storm outside of us begins creating questions inside of us.

"Lord, do You see me?" "Lord, do You hear me?" "Lord, do You care?"

"Lord, why aren't You doing something?"

We should never interpret God's silence as His absence, and never interpret God's delay as His lack of concern.

The human Jesus was sleeping, but the Bible is clear that God neither sleeps nor slumbers

So then why was Jesus sleep? Maybe He was asleep as an example to us to not worry.

4. JESUS HAS POWER OVER WHAT HAS POWER OVER US (v39)

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

Here is the great revelation of the passage. The disciples could handle boats. Several of them were experienced fishermen. They understood the Sea of Galilee. But they encountered something beyond their ability.

Their expertise had reached its limit. But where their ability ended, Christ's authority did not.

Jesus did not wrestle with the storm. He did not negotiate with the storm. He did not need assistance with the storm. He spoke to the storm.

The text actually said He rebuked the wind.

The word rebuke is stronger than simply saying He spoke to the wind.

The Greek word is epitimaō. It can mean to rebuke, reprimand, censure, or command sternly.

The idea is to speak authoritatively against something and order it to stop.

So Jesus did not merely say, "Storm, please calm down." He commanded it. "He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!'"

There is something interesting here. The writer, Mark uses the same kind of language earlier when Jesus deals with an unclean spirit.

Mark 1:25 says, "But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be quiet, and come out of him!'"

Then Mark 4 says, “He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’”

In both scenes, Jesus confronts something beyond human control and speaks with authority.

We must be careful here. Not everything Jesus has the power to do; we have the power to do.

We know that later, in Mark chapter 6, the apostles were given authority over unclean spirits and went out casting out demons. I believe that the apostolic age, as presented in Scripture, has ended. There may be those today who use the term apostle in its general sense of “one who is sent,” perhaps referring to missionaries or those who establish churches. However, I do not believe that men today possess the same apostolic authority and miraculous power that Christ specifically gave to His apostles.

That does not mean that God cannot perform miracles today. God is still God, and He can do whatever He chooses to do. And He can use whomever He chooses to use. But there is a difference between God sovereignly performing a miracle through someone and someone possessing the apostolic power and authority to perform miracles.

So, when I read Mark 4, I do not see Jesus teaching the disciples, or us, how to rebuke storms. I see Jesus revealing something about Himself: He possesses authority over the storm.

The lesson is not that we can command the wind. The lesson is that we know the One who can.

Today believers are commanded to resist the devil. That miracle is fundamentally Christological; it tells us something about Jesus and His power.

Notice Jesus in correcting the disciples never said, “why did you not rebuke the wind”, he criticized their faith.

And that distinction becomes even stronger concerning the wind and sea. I see no New Testament passage giving either the apostles or ordinary believers continuing authority to command weather as Jesus did in Mark 4.

The disciples didn't leave the boat saying, "Now we know how to rebuke storms."

They said: "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

And Mark says: "Then the wind died down and it was completely calm."

5. JESUS FIRST CALMED THE STORM, THEN DEALT WITH THE DISCIPLES (v. 40)

This part is important. Jesus speaks to the storm: Peace, be still.

Then He turns to the disciples in verse 40 and says: "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

Because there were really two storms happening.

There was a storm around them, and there was a storm within them.

Jesus dealt with both. He calmed the sea around them, but He also wanted to develop the faith within them.

Sometimes we are asking, "Lord, change my circumstances."

While God desires to build us up through our circumstances?"

They wanted Jesus to deal with the storm. Jesus wanted to deal with their faith.

That means the purpose of the storm wasn't merely to demonstrate His power. It was also designed to develop their trust.

6. FEAR AND FAITH ARE FIGHTING FOR THE SAME SPACE (v40)

But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

Jesus does not deny the reality of the storm. The waves were real. The water was real. The danger was real. But their fear had become greater than their confidence in the One who was with them.

Faith does not say, “There is no storm.” Faith says, “There is a storm, but Jesus is here.” Faith doesn’t deny reality.

Faith interprets reality through the presence and power of Christ.

Their mistake was not seeing or recognizing the storm. Their mistake was seeing the storm without properly seeing Jesus.

Often times our issues when it comes to our storms is that we feed our fears and not our faith.

If we want our faith to be stronger in the storm, we have to feed our faith before and during the storm. Here are five biblical ways to feed your faith.

1. Feed Your Faith With the Word of God — Romans 10:17

“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

2. Feed Your Faith Through Prayer — Mark 9:24

“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

3. Feed Your Faith by Remembering What God Has Already Done
— Psalm 77:11 -

“I will remember the works of the LORD...”

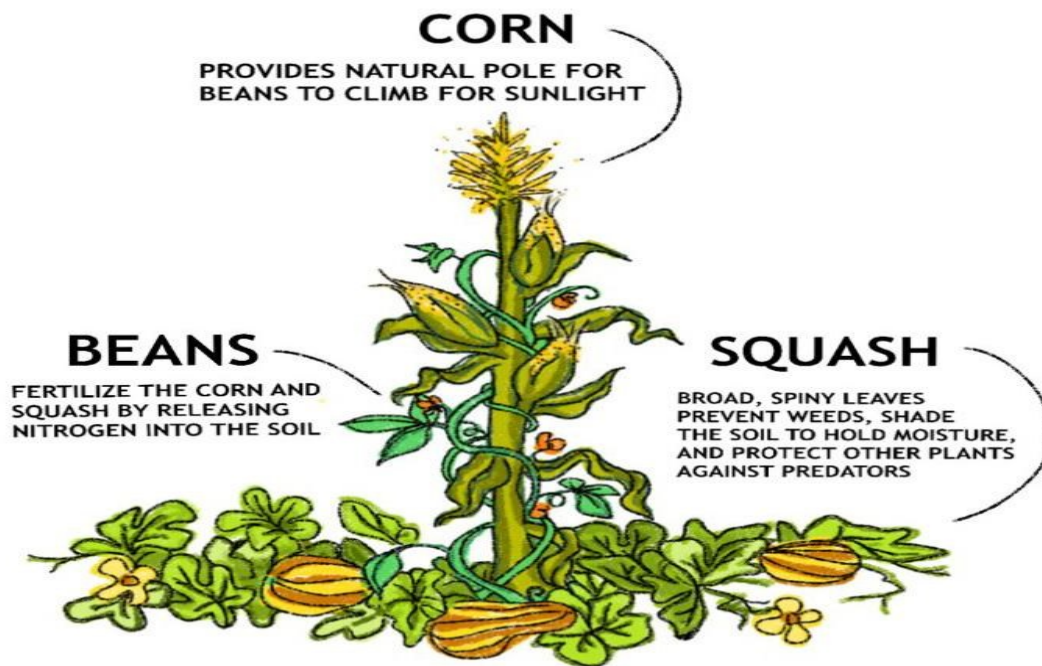
4. Feed Your Faith Through Fellowship With Other Believers —
Hebrews 10:24–25 *24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together*

Faith was never designed to grow in isolation. We need people around us who can encourage us, pray with us, remind us of God's promises, and strengthen us when our faith gets weak. Sometimes we need somebody else's faith to encourage our faith.

There is something in the plant world called **companion planting**.

One of the best illustrations is the traditional “**Three Sisters**” **planting method: corn, beans, and squash** grown together.

The **corn** grows tall and provides a natural structure for climbing beans. The **beans** can contribute nitrogen to the soil through their association with nitrogen-fixing bacteria. The **squash** spreads across the ground, helping shade the soil, retain moisture, and suppress weeds. Each plant contributes something to the community that the others do not provide in the same way.



5. Feed Your Faith by Exercising Your Faith — James 2:17

“Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Believers grow better when we grow together.

- Feed your faith with the Word.
- Strengthen your faith through prayer.
- Encourage your faith through remembrance.
- Support your faith through fellowship.
- Develop your faith through exercise.

Because whatever you feed grows, and whatever you starve becomes weak.

7. THE GREATEST REVELATION WASN'T ABOUT THE STORM, IT WAS ABOUT JESUS (v41)

This may be the most important point in this passage.

V41, ...*“Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”*

The story begins with a storm, but it ends with a question about Jesus.

The real lesson wasn't, “Look what Jesus can do.” The real question was, “Who is Jesus?”

The storm revealed something about Christ that they had not fully understood before.

Before the storm, they knew Him as a Teacher. After the storm, they began asking, “Who is this?”

That's spiritual growth.

Sometimes God allows us to experience circumstances where what we know about Him intellectually becomes what we know about Him experientially.

They knew Jesus could teach. They knew Jesus could heal. They knew Jesus could cast out demons. But now they knew that He commands creation itself.

Sometimes God doesn't show us why the storm came, He uses the storm to show us who He is.