Jesus Calms a Storm

Mark 4:35-41

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

Jesus Tells the Disciples to Sail Across the Sea of Galilee

Jesus' suggestion to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee sounds to us like a simple procedure. However, several factors made such a journey difficult. First, it's unlikely that many Jews from the west side of the lake ever ventured to this area of the east side, inhabited mostly by Gentiles. Second, the boats were small fishing boats not intended for crossing the lake. And finally, the geography surrounding the lake made it vulnerable to sudden storms that could turn this calm lake into a violent sea. Such a storm arose, and though many of the disciples were experienced sailors, they woke Jesus for help.

Jesus Calms the Chaotic Storm

When Jesus awoke, he immediately demonstrated his power and control. There was no hint of worry or concern in his words. He simply said, "Quiet!" He then said, "Be still," a term which literally means "muzzle yourself and continue to be silent."

We have the benefit of knowing the end of the story. But imagine the disciples' amazement when the raging waves instantly became calm. Even today, with our advanced technology, we don't have any control over the weather and can't even forecast it very accurately. In the instant the storm ceased, the disciples began to realize more fully who Jesus was. He'd demonstrated his power in healing people, but never before had he done anything of this magnitude.

Jesus Uses the Storm to Teach the Disciples About Trust

Jesus seemed surprised that the disciples' faith was so weak. After all they'd seen, they still hadn't fully grasped who Jesus was or what he was capable of. But now they'd seen something so powerful, so awesome, that they were terrified to think of who Jesus really was.

The disciples' terrified response is understandable when we consider God's power and purity in light of our own weakness and imperfection. But the disciples came to learn that no matter how bad a situation seemed, the first thing they needed to do was turn to Jesus.

The Jesus Connection

Who or what do you trust when life gets scary? So often we seek security in money, possessions, position, or human relationships. But all these things can fail. It's far better to invest in a relationship with the Son of God. We have the comfort of having the all-powerful Jesus as our best friend. What can you do today to put your trust more fully in Jesus? You can write your prayer here.