

Bridgeway Community Church
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Otherwise

The Other Boats

Mark 4:35-41 NIV84

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

On Easter we learned that Jesus got up and rebuked death

1 Corinthians 15:55 KJV

O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

"God wants you to know that he [Jesus] got up so you can get up too...the next time you feel like you're going down, remember: he got up with all power in his hands so you can too."

Mark 4:40 NIV84

He [Jesus] said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

Observations #1: The Characteristics of the Storm

Mark 4:37 A furious squall came up
 the waves broke over the boat
 it [the boat] was nearly swamped

Same story in parallel passages: Luke 8:22-25 & Matthew 8:23-27

Luke 8:23 and they were in great danger
Luke 8:24 the raging waters
Matthew 8:24 the waves swept over the boat
 Without warning, a furious storm came up

Bottomline: They were overtaken - they were overwhelmed - they were overcome
by a sudden storm without warning.

Question: Has this ever happened to you? Overwhelmed? Overtaken? Overcome?

“When we are prepared for a storm, we can prepare our spirits for it. But happens when something comes up without warning? What happens when a crisis happens suddenly?”

“When a storm comes without warning, that’s when true character reveals itself...the true character of your faith is revealed”

Observations #2: The Contrast/Character of the Savior

Mark 4:38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion

“Jesus was at peace while the disciples were falling to pieces.”

Mark 4:33-34. NIV84

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them [those he was teaching], as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

After Jesus got done teaching the masses, then he would 'debriefing meetings' with his disciples as well. He was doing a tremendous amount of output which would explain why he is asleep in verse 38

"In his humanity, he was asleep, but God in his divinity, never sleeps...he is always working for you."

Psalm 121:4

he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Observations #3: The Charge Against the Savior

Mark 4:38 NIV84

Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

Mark 1:23-28	Jesus drives out an evil spirit
Mark 1:29-34	Jesus heals many
Mark 2:1-12	Jesus heals a paralytic
Mark 3:1-6	Jesus heals a man with a withered hand
Mark 3:13-19	Jesus calls the disciples to follow him

After all the things that the disciple have heard, seen and experienced during their time with Jesus, and then a sudden crisis comes up, they say to him, "Teacher, don't you even care?!"

But Jesus doesn't get offended by their 'spiritual amnesia' concerning all he has done

LESSONS IN A STORM

#1 - ADDRESS THE CRISIS FIRST, TEACH THE LESSON LATER

Let's address the situation and stay calm. We can do the teaching/debriefing later.

#2 - ALIGN YOURSELF WITH CHRIST, NOT THE CRISIS!

“He [Jesus] called the storm to come in line with his character, to come in line with his calm, to come in line with his quiet, to come in line with who he was.”

“The disciples were in line with the crisis instead of being in line with Christ.”

You have a choice to line yourself up with Jesus’ peace/character/calm

“If the storm can submit to Jesus, then so can you.”

Mark 4:40 NIV84

He [Jesus] said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Mark 4:30-32 NIV84

Again he [Jesus] said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”

“Do you STILL? All that you’ve seen? All the evidence of who I am? All that I’ve done with you so far in this young discipleship process? Your faith hasn’t grown at all?!”

“I turn to you and I ask you the same question. How long have you been in church and you still have no faith? How long have you been in relationship with other Christians? How long have you heard God’s word preached? How many times has God been faithful to you through thick and thin and you still have no faith?”

“Maybe this is the day that you begin to put your faith in the one who deserves it. Maybe this is the day you stop falsely accusing God of not caring about you. Maybe you will delete that phrase from your mouth: ‘God doesn’t care. Jesus doesn’t care. He may care about others, but he doesn’t care about me.’ Maybe this is the day that you say, ‘I will never say that again.’ ”

#3 - AWAKEN TO THE PERSPECTIVE OF OTHERS

Mark 4:36 NIV84

Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. **There were also other boats with him.**

They were on the sea but Jesus wasn't on their boats. What were they thinking?

Question: "How is your life any different because Jesus is in the boat of your life?"

"The question in crisis is what kind of witnesses are we being if we have the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives?"

"All Christians are witnesses. The question is are you a good one or a bad one?"

Matthew 5:45

[Jesus speaking] He [the Father] causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Do you have faith and peace in the midst of the storm? People from the other boats are watching you...your spirit...your words...your behavior.

Tell others who brought you through the storm, who was with you and who you called on.

1 Peter 3:15

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.