

TRUSTING JESUS IN THE STORMS OF LIFE

Mark 4:35-41

by

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Introduction

I'd like you to picture your Christian life as a long ocean journey in a small boat with Jesus. When the sun is shining, the water is smooth and the wind is filling your sails, it's easy to trust Jesus. But when the clouds block the sun, the wind howls, the waves churn, the boat rocks, the water pours in, and the boat begins to sink, it is much more difficult to trust Jesus to take care of you.

I have been in the boat with Jesus in the journey of my Christian life for over five decades. And I can tell you from personal experience that there are many storms on the trip that will challenge your faith in Christ. Even though He is with you in the boat, the storms are scary, and it is not easy to trust Jesus. If you do learn to trust Him in the storms, you will go on your life's journey with peace and joy in your heart. You will enjoy the trip. If, however, you do not learn to trust in Jesus in the many storms of life, your passage through life will be miserable. You will be anxious and afraid. You will be unhappy. You will be angry. The journey will be very unpleasant.

I want to take you to a portion of God's word designed by God Himself to teach you and me what we need to know in order to trust Jesus in the storms of life. It is a passage about Jesus and His disciples in a boat on a sea in a storm. First, read the story below, and then I'll unpack the truths that it has for us. Mark chapter 4:35-41 says,

³⁵And on that day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶And leaving the multitude, they took Him along with them just as He was, in the boat; and other boats were with them. ³⁷And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. ³⁸And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹And being aroused, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. ⁴⁰And He said to them, "Why are you so timid? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

This story is Mark's theology of storms. In it he reveals

Six Insights That Will Help Us Trust Jesus in the Storms of Life.

I. Following Jesus Will Sometimes Take Us Into The Path Of A Storm

Verses 35 through 37 tell us that Jesus led His followers directly into the path of a storm. Verse 35:

And on that day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side."

"On that day" refers to the day that began in chapter 3, verse 20. There we read that Jesus' relatives came to take Him home by force to protect Him from Himself because they thought He was crazy. They actually thought He had lost His mind. Following that, He engaged in an intense conflict with the religious leaders who accused Him of being possessed by Satan. He then withdrew to the seashore where a huge crowd came to listen to Him. He got out into a boat, sat down and began to teach them in parables. And He taught them for the rest of the day. At the end of that day, when evening had come, He said to His disciples, "Let's go over to the other side." By "the other side," He was referring to the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee where there are fewer cities and where they are much smaller than on the western side. He was tired. He wanted to get a break from the crowd. He wanted to rest. So He initiated the trip.

Verse 36:

And leaving the multitude, they took Him along with them just as He was, in the boat; and other boats were with them.

His disciples obeyed His instructions and "they took Him along just as He was." That means that He didn't get out of the boat after teaching to fetch anything; He just ended the teaching time and said, "Let's go." So they weighed anchor and they took off across the Sea of Galilee.

Verse 37 says,

And there arose a fierce gale of wind,

That literally means a "great hurricane of wind." This is a monstrous wind that falls on the sea. This created a serious problem for them.

and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.

The waves kept on breaking over the boat and it began to fill up with water.

The Sea of Galilee is six hundred and twenty-eight feet below sea level. It's shaped like a deep basin surrounded by land above and by mountains on various sides. There are ravines in those hills that descend to the lake, and the winds funnel down those ravines and blast onto the Sea of Galilee. And such a storm can arise in a moment. These kinds of storms still strike the Sea of Galilee today. One moment Jesus and His disciples were gliding peacefully along the surface of a placid night sea, and the next they were swallowed up in a storm.

Now you and I realize that Jesus knows everything. He knew that storm was coming. Yet he said to his unsuspecting followers, "Let's go to the other side. Let's take a sea voyage." They might have thought that if they followed Jesus, they'd get to go around the storms. But Jesus didn't take them around this storm; He took them right into it. We often expect, as followers of Jesus today, that if we're really faithful, if we're really loyal, if we're right there on His heels, He'll take us around the storms. After all, Jesus is a weatherman who's always accurate. He can predict the storms. And if we just follow Him, we think, we should be able to avoid those storms. But, that's not the way it works. The truth is Jesus leads us into all kinds of storms.

He leads us into storms of illness. Many of God's choicest saints through the centuries have suffered from terrible physical illnesses.

He leads us into storms of persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12 says,

Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

If you have a deep desire to live a godly life in your relationship with Christ, the Bible says you will be persecuted. That's going to be true of all who desire to live godly lives. In your neighborhood, in your workplace, at your school, even sometimes in your home, if you're faithful to Jesus you will experience persecution. Following Jesus takes you into storms of persecution.

Jesus also, in His sovereignty, sometimes leads us into storms of marital problems. Many of God's people live in troubled marriages. William Carey was the great father of modern missions. He was a man who was doggedly committed to world missions and, as He followed Christ in reaching the lost, he traveled to India with a wife who was literally insane. Every day of his married life, she verbally assaulted him. He received no support, only constant criticism and verbal abuse from his wife until she finally died, many years after his mission in India had become successful.

Jesus takes His followers into storms. It could be storms of financial trouble. Storms of failure. Or storms of grief. I read a book called, *Preachers with Power*, which contained four short biographical sketches of great preachers in the history of the American South. One of the men, a man of great spiritual power and deep commitment to the Lord, lost all four of his

children to death at different times. He was following Jesus, but following Jesus took him into great grief.

Jesus leads us into storms but He does so for our ultimate good. In James chapter 1, verses 2 through 4, the Bible says,

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Jesus knows that we need to endure storms to test our faith, to build Christlikeness and to bring us to full spiritual maturity. Therefore, He takes us into storms. Do not be surprised when following Jesus takes you directly into the path of a terrible storm. It is easier to trust Jesus in the storms of life when you accept the truth that He leads you into them for your highest good.

II. Even Though Jesus Is With Us In A Storm, He May Not Act Quickly To Still It

Look at verse 38.

And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.

Jesus was with the disciples in the boat. But He was sleeping. This story, which is repeated in Matthew and Luke, is the only place in the Gospels where Jesus is said to be sleeping. The fact that Jesus was able to sleep through the worst storm that His fishermen followers had ever known shows how tired He really was. The noise was incredible, the boat was rocking violently and was filling up with water, but Jesus didn't wake up. He wasn't pretending to be asleep just to teach them a lesson. He was really asleep. Jesus was truly exhausted from the draining demands of His ministry, clearly revealing His true humanity. If you follow Jesus, you know what it feels like to go to bed at night exhausted from serving God and people.

So, Jesus was with the disciples in the storm, but instead of stilling the storm, He slept through it. And even though they were about to drown, He did not act quickly to save them. Instead He allowed them to fight the storm. He let the water fill the boat until the men knew they were on the brink of sinking under the dark and wild waves.

This is illustrative of how Jesus frequently deals with us. Even though He's always with us in the boat in the storm, He doesn't always act quickly to still the storm and save us. Jesus has promised to never desert us or to forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), so we as believers can be absolutely certain that any time we're in a storm, Jesus is in the boat with us. But He does often delay His deliverance.

I remember the time when my wife and I were trying to have our first child. We had problems conceiving and we had problems carrying to term. We suffered through three miscarriages. All during this time we pled with the Lord to give us a baby. But He did not deliver us quickly. Instead, He made us wait three years before the birth of our first child.

I know followers of Jesus who have prayed in the middle of a storm for relief for years, yet Jesus has not come and stilled the storm at all. He has delayed for long periods. Jesus will always be in your boat with you in the storm, but sometimes it will seem like He's sleeping. In His wisdom, He will not always come quickly to deliver you.

III. When Jesus Doesn't Quickly Still Our Storms, We Are Tempted To Question His Concern For Us

A third insight that Mark gives us in this theology of storms is that when Jesus doesn't quickly still our storms, we are tempted to question His concern for us. That's exactly what Jesus' disciples did. Verse 38,

And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

A man named Moffet paraphrased this to read, "Teacher, are we to drown for all You care?" This was an angry attack on Jesus' character. The disciples were ticked. "Okay, Jesus, You've slept long enough. We've given You time. And now we have to wake You up. Look at this storm! We are about to drown! The boat is filled with water and You're sleeping! Don't You care that we're about to die, that we are now, as we speak, going under?" Their logic said, if Jesus really cared, He would deliver them immediately. If Jesus really cared, He wouldn't be sleeping in the bottom of the boat when they were about to drown. They resented the fact that He seemed utterly indifferent to the disaster that they were experiencing. And in their anger with Christ, they had the amazing gall to rebuke Him. "Teacher, don't you care that we are perishing?"

The disciples' response is not that unusual. Jesus' disciples still do this. When we know from God's word that Jesus is with us, but it seems that He is sleeping through our trials, we get angry with Him and we even rebuke Him. "Jesus, where are you? I'm going down! Don't you care that I'm suffering?" We reason that if Jesus really cared, He would act quickly to relieve our suffering. His seeming indifference to our pain can shake our faith and stimulate our anger.

Perhaps you follow Jesus in a stormy marriage. You live with a spouse whose selfishness wounds you every day of your life. You pray to Jesus for relief, but the pain goes on and on. And finally you say to Jesus, "Don't you care about my suffering? Don't you care about the pain I'm in? If you really cared, you would fix my marriage. Now!"

Maybe you live in constant physical pain. Every day of your life you hurt. You plead with Christ to deliver you. You know He has the power. But it seems like He's sleeping. And sometimes you challenge Him, "Jesus, I'm not sure you really care. If you really cared You'd help me."

When Jesus doesn't quickly still our storms, it is very tempting to question His concern for us. Knowing that this is a common experience of Jesus' disciples will help us trust Him in the storms of life.

IV. Jesus Has The Power To Instantly Still Even The Worst Storms Of Life

In the fourth insight from our text, we learn that Jesus has the power to instantly still even the worst storms of life. This is demonstrated in Jesus' power to still a dangerously violent storm for His disciples. Verse 39 says,

And being aroused He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.

Once the disciples had awakened Jesus, He rebuked the wind and sea. The text doesn't tell us what Jesus said when He rebuked the wind. But the Bible does tell us that Jesus commanded the sea, "Hush, be still." The word *hush*, in Greek, literally means "be continually silent"; that is, "get silent and stay silent." And *be still* literally means, "be muzzled permanently." It is a word used of muzzling an animal. Jesus majestically ordered the sea to be continually silent and to be permanently muzzled. And in obedience to His command, the wind died down and the sea became perfectly calm. It was a miracle. Normally, after a storm has left a body of water and the sun is shining, even for many hours afterwards the waves will continue to ripple. But Jesus spoke to the wind and the sea and they instantly obeyed Him. The wind died down and the sea became as smooth as glass, immediately.

The contrast between Jesus' human weakness and His divine power are clearly demonstrated in this passage. On the one hand Jesus is so physically exhausted in His humanity that He sleeps through a violent storm that is about to swamp His boat. But on the other hand, once He is awakened He merely speaks a command and calms a storm at sea. The same Jesus who was physically exhausted had the power to control nature with His spoken word. It proves He was not only a true man, but He was also at the same time the divine Lord of all creation.

If Jesus had the power to still that storm for the disciples, He has the power today to still our storms. He has the power to save your marriage. He has the almighty power of God to heal your body. He has the power to provide for all of your financial needs. Jesus has the power to turn your enemies into your friends. He has the power to take a wayward child and turn him back to God and bring him home to you. Jesus has the divine power to solve your

problem of loneliness and give you a close friend. Jesus has the power, as God, to help you pass a difficult class at school. He is almighty God. He is the God-man. And He can still your storm any time He chooses.

My favorite preacher of all time is Charles Haddon Spurgeon. In preaching on this passage He said, "Jesus sleeps but He never oversleeps." Yes, Jesus was sleeping in a violent storm, but He didn't let His disciples perish. He was sleeping in the boat until the right time came to deliver them. Jesus knows when the time is right to rescue us. He has the power to miraculously still our storms. And in His own time, He will still your storm. So when you pray in the middle of the storm, pray with absolute confidence that Jesus has the power of almighty God to still your storm, whatever it is. No matter how big it is, Jesus is bigger. He has the power to still even the worst storms in your life.

V. Jesus Expects Us To Fearlessly Trust Him, Even In The Midst Of The Worst Storms

This is Mark's fifth insight to help us trust Jesus in a storm. Jesus has two expectations of us in any storm of life.

1. Jesus expects us to be unafraid in the storms of life.

Jesus expected this of His disciples, so He rebuked them for their lack of fearlessness. Look at verse 40,

And He said to them, "Why are you so timid?"

Timid is far too weak a translation for the Greek term, which is the word for cowardice. Jesus literally asked them, "Why are you so cowardly?" *Cowardice* is unreasonable and disgraceful fear. It is a fear that is self-centered and inexcusable. It is shameful fear.

Cowardly fear, even in a terrible storm, is a sin. We know this because Jesus rebuked them for it in our story. We also know cowardice is a sin because in the book of Revelation the cowardly are in a list of sinners who will spend eternity in hell. Revelation 21:8 says,

But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

Obviously God doesn't mean that anybody who has ever committed any of these sins is going to be in hell, because that is certainly not true. Even believers in Jesus are capable of committing any one of these sins. John, the author of Revelation 21:8, is talking about unbelievers whose lives are dominated by these kinds of sins. Certain sins tend to

characterize our lives and the lives of the lost. And the great characteristic sin in the life of some unbelievers is that they are cowards.

Also please notice that the cowardly are at the head of a list of sins that includes murderers, the sexually immoral and sorcerers. Obviously, cowardice is a serious sin in the eyes of God.

After Jesus had calmed the storm and everything was quiet, while they were looking around in amazement, Jesus asked His disciples, "Why are you such cowards?" I think their first response might have been something like, "Well, shouldn't it be obvious, Jesus? We were about to die. Isn't it natural for someone to be deeply afraid when their boat is about to sink? We were perishing, Jesus! We were almost dead! And yet you ask why we were fearful? Isn't that normal, Jesus? Wouldn't anybody be afraid?" And I imagine Jesus' response to their excuses would go something like this, "Yes, cowardly fear is normal. Yes, it is natural. And yes, it is still a sin." I find it fascinating that even though the disciples had what most of us would consider an airtight excuse for cowardly fear, Jesus still rebuked them for being afraid!

As followers of Jesus today, we too are often cowardly in the storms of life. Sometimes a follower of Jesus is led into the storm of losing a job, and his heart is gripped with cowardly fear. Here is Jesus' loving but firm response to him, "Why are you such a coward?"

"But Jesus, isn't it natural for people who lose their jobs to get scared?"

"Yes, it's natural, but why are you such a coward?"

The worst thing I can imagine is a physician telling me that one of my children has a terminal disease. I think my heart would be gripped with cowardly fear in such a terrible moment. And it would be perfectly natural. But here is what Jesus would say to me. "Why are you so cowardly?"

If you are a leader, whether in a Sunday School class, a small group in the church, in business, or in your home, you're going to get criticized. And leaders, when they are criticized, are often filled with cowardly fear. It's natural. But Jesus says, "Even if it looks like your followers are about to stone you, like they wanted to do to David (1 Samuel 30:6), why are you so cowardly?"

Maybe it looks like your marriage is breaking up and your heart is filled with cowardly fear. Jesus lovingly, but firmly, asks, "Why are you so afraid?"

Jesus Himself takes us into storms and He expects us to be unafraid while we ride them out. How can He expect that of us? The answer is found in the second expectation Jesus has of us in any storm.

2. Jesus expects us to trust Him in the storms of life.

Jesus expects us to be unafraid because He expects us to trust Him in the storms of life. He expected His disciples to trust Him even in the midst of a storm that almost took them under. And He rebuked them with a second question. In verse 40, He asked,

"How is it that you have no faith?"

He followed His question about their cowardice with a challenge about their faith. "How is it that you have no faith?" I think a better translation is found in the New International Version. Normally I prefer the New American Standard Bible because of its literal, word for word approach to translating the original Hebrew and Greek languages of the Bible. But in this verse the New International Version did a better job of translating the Greek. It says that Jesus literally asked them, "Do you still have no faith?" What He meant was, "After all the time that you've spent with Me, after all the miracles you've seen Me perform, after all the teaching you've heard from My lips, after all the love I've shown to you over the years, do you *still* have no faith?"

"Yeah, but Jesus, it was a violent storm, we were perishing."

"Do you still have no faith?"

They had a little faith but practically no faith, really. And Jesus said, "Your lack of faith is without excuse. It doesn't matter how big this storm was. It doesn't matter if you were perishing. You should have had faith. You should have trusted Me." The major lesson is that they were so cowardly because they had no faith.

You see, faith cancels fear. In the Bible, faith and cowardly fear are always mutually exclusive. You cannot be afraid and have faith at the same time. If you have faith in Christ, you will not be afraid. Faith and fear are absolute opposites. So if you are filled with cowardly fear, you are not trusting Jesus. Period.

Jesus expects us, no matter how violent our storm, to trust Him in the middle of the wind and waves. And when we don't, when we yield to cowardice instead, Jesus asks us, "After all that I've taught you in My word, after all the miracles that you've read about in the Bible, after all the answers to prayer I've granted you, after all the love you've received from Me, how is it that you still don't have faith?"

Jesus' love is so unchanging, His wisdom so infallible, His power so unlimited, that no matter how big the storm, there is never an excuse for us not to trust Him. We say, "Yeah, but Jesus, I'm going bankrupt." Or, "I may be losing my marriage." Or, "I've got cancer." And Jesus replies, "How is it that you still don't trust me?" There is never a legitimate excuse for us to abandon trust and to give way to cowardly fear. No matter how bad the storm. That is

the plain teaching of the word of God. Jesus expects us to fearlessly trust Him, even in the midst of our worst storms.

VI. Jesus Uses The Storms Of Life To Reveal His True Nature To Us

This is Mark's sixth insight to help us trust Jesus in the storms of life. Jesus used a storm on the Sea of Galilee to reveal His true nature to His disciples. Look at verse 41:

They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

"Who is this?" Before He miraculously rescued them the disciples asked Jesus, "Don't You care that we're perishing?" After the miracle, they're talking to themselves and asking, "Who is this?" As Jesus intended, they are beginning to expand their understanding of His true identity.

As a result "they became very much afraid." In verse 40 Jesus rebuked them for their fear in relation to the storm, using the Greek term for cowardice. But here, the Greek word translated "afraid" is the one often used in the good sense of a deep, reverential awe of God. As the magnitude of what Jesus had done struck them, they were filled with an immense awe of Him.

They already knew Jesus was the Messiah. They knew He had unusual power from God. They'd seen the miracles. But they didn't yet understand that they were in the presence of Yahweh, the Lord of the Old Testament. Now they were beginning to get it because in the Old Testament, the only One who has the power to control nature and to still storms is God Himself. Psalm 89:8,9 says,

*O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD?
Your faithfulness also surrounds You.
You rule the swelling of the sea;
When its waves rise, You still them.*

"When its waves rise," the Bible says, God stills the storm. The disciples, who knew of this psalm, were in a boat with a man who got up from sleeping and stilled the storm. And it scared them. When you know you are in the presence of Almighty God, it is awe inspiring.

In the book of Revelation, John the Apostle, who was the beloved apostle, the dearest friend Jesus had in all His earthly life, received a vision of Jesus. As a result he fell down at His feet like he was dead (Revelation 1:17). When you begin to grasp who Christ is in His Divine nature, it creates awe. Jesus's disciples experienced that awe. They didn't fully understand it yet, but this miracle was beginning to reveal it to them. And they asked the question, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Mark recorded this so his readers would ask and answer the same question, "Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" In His gospel Mark is trying to prove that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. That's why he wrote in the very first verse, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God" (Mark 1:1). The answer to the question, "Who is this?" is that He is the Christ, the Son of God. He is our God. He is our Lord. And this miracle of power proves it. It reveals His true nature to His followers.

Jesus is still using storms to reveal the power of His true nature to His followers. He does so in two ways:

1. He reveals His divine power when He stills our storms.

When my daughter was a few weeks old in the womb our physician told us she was an unviable embryo. So we asked our church family to lay hands on her mother and pray for our baby's healing. The following week the same specialist was shocked to see a healthy fetus on the ultrasound. We asked Jesus to heal her and He did. And it revealed His true nature.

When God restores a marriage by changing hearts, you see the power of Christ. When He stills those storms at work and gives you success, you see the power of Christ, and His true nature is revealed. And that's the way we like it. We love to see Jesus' true nature revealed when He stills our storms. But sometimes He doesn't still the storm. Sometimes He uses storms to reveal the power of His true nature to His followers in another way.

2. He reveals His divine nature when He strengthens us to endure our storms.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 is a passage that is growing increasingly important to me. In the preceding verses, Paul described a vision he had of being taken into heaven. He'd seen things nobody else had ever seen. And then he wrote in verse 7,

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!

Christ sent Satan as a messenger to keep Paul humble. We don't know for sure what his thorn in the flesh was. Most suspect it was some kind of physical illness. Verse 8, tells us how Paul dealt with it.

Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

In the middle of his storm of physical suffering, Paul said "I begged Jesus three times, 'Still the storm. Take the thorn.'" However Jesus didn't respond in the way Paul had asked.

And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong. (Verse 9).

Paul's experience teaches us that sometimes Jesus, in His wisdom, chooses not to still the storm. He keeps us in the storm. He weakens us with the storm. Then we are open to the power of Christ which is made complete—is made obvious and evident—in our total weakness. To paraphrase, Paul said, "It's so wonderful to have the power of Christ dwell in me when the storm is not taken away and I feel weak, that I have learned to exult in my weaknesses. I laugh at the thunder. I let the sea spray sting me in the face. And I exult as the boat is filling up with water and it looks like I'm perishing. Because when I'm weak, the power of Christ is revealed in me." Paul learned that it was more important to have the power of Christ working mightily in him than to be free from storms.

That is what Jesus is trying to get through my head. That's why He keeps taking me into storms. It's why He takes you into storms. He wants us to quit demanding that all the storms of life be stilled. He wants us to learn to rely on His mighty power so that no matter how bad the storm is outside, inside we're calm and strong in the power of Jesus. It doesn't really matter what goes on in our lives if, internally, we can rejoice in our weakness. That's one thing Jesus is trying to do when He takes us into storms. He's using the storms of life to reveal His true divine nature to us, both when He stills the storm and when He strengthens us to endure the storm.

Conclusion

Years ago I saw a painting I'll never forget. In it there is a sailor standing on the deck of an old sailing ship, gripping the wheel in the middle of a terrible storm. It's very dark because of the clouds and the driving rain, and the ship is leaning hard to port. Standing close behind the pilot is Jesus. His left arm is on the sailor's shoulder and His right arm is pointing the way. Jesus is comforting and guiding him. The man's face reveals intense concentration, but his eyes are perfectly calm, because Jesus is in the boat with him. He has no fear because he is trusting Jesus to take him through the storm.

Sometimes Jesus will take us into a storm. And even though we can be sure He is always with us, He may not still the storm quickly. When He doesn't, we must resist the temptation to question His concern for us. Jesus has the power as almighty God to still even the worst storm, and He expects us to fearlessly trust Him in the midst of it. Jesus uses storms to reveal His divine nature by both stilling them and by strengthening us to endure them.

The message of Mark 4:35-41 is that when we are overwhelmed in the storms of life, Jesus wants us to fearlessly trust His divine power to care for us. He wants us to believe and be brave.

That's Mark's theology of storms.

May God help us to learn it and to live it out in the storms of life.

Lord Jesus, we have to confess that many times in the storms of life we have been angry with you because you seemed to be sleeping. And while it appeared we were perishing, it didn't seem that you cared. Right now we confess that that anger was sinful.

Lord Jesus, in the midst of our storms, we have been cowards. We confess our cowardice as a sin.

And in the midst of terrible storms, Lord Jesus, we have not trusted you. We confess our unbelief as a sin.

Lord Jesus, I pray that you would so work the storm theology of this passage into our souls that in our present storms and in the storms we'll sail into in the future, we will not doubt you, we will not be afraid, but we will only trust you.

I pray it in your name, Amen.

About Rod Rogers

I have led church capital campaigns as a pastor and consultant since the mid-nineties, serving churches nationwide. I am also the creator of an annual giving program used by over 3,000 churches in twenty-five countries with weekly giving increases from 20 to over 100 percent.

My first experience with church capital campaigns came in the early nineties when, as a pastor, I hired a capital campaign consultant to help me lead my church in three back-to-back, three-year capital campaigns. *These campaigns transformed my church spiritually and financially and opened my eyes to the power of biblical stewardship teaching for making disciples.*

Abundant Giving Church Capital Campaign: <https://abundantgiving.com/>
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Giving That Pleases God: 36 Stewardship Devotions.
<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B09D8WWZBR>

Pray With Faith: Charles Spurgeon's Encouraging Insights on Prayer
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