

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Calms a Storm

Mark 4:35-41

Opening

- Gathering: Are people more likely to blame God or to turn to Him in times of trouble?
- Today's Focus: Jesus taught His disciples to trust in Him through all of life's storms.
- Key Verses: *He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"* Mark 4:40
What kind of man is this? Even the wind and waves obey Him" Matthew 8:27

Opening Prayer

Lesson

A Busy Messiah (*Matthew 4:23-25*)

- How did Jesus spend the first 2-1/2 years of His 3-year ministry? = Large crowds from all over
Matthew 4:23-25 = Traveling through Galilee - teaching, preaching, healing
- How willing was Jesus to be bothered with the cares and needs of these crowds of people?
Matthew 8:1-4 = He was very willing to take care of His own out of love
- Why did Jesus spend so much time healing since there would always be sickness and trouble?
Matthew 8:16-17 = Isaiah's prophesy that Messiah would take our infirmities

Showing God's Love to His Children (*Matthew 9:36*)

- Was there any other reason that Jesus cared for people besides fulfilling prophesy?
Matthew 9:36 = He had compassion on them – Showed God's love
- How dedicated was Jesus to taking care of these people who came to Him?
Mark 3:20-21 = So much so that He neglected even His own needs
- Why did Jesus show so much concern for all of these strangers?
Mark 3:31-35 = They weren't strangers, they were His family
- Besides bringing people to be healed, why did people travel long distances to see Jesus?
Matthew 7:28-29 = He was an amazing teacher and preacher - Words of God

Getting Away From the Crowd? (*Matthew 8:18*)

- Was it easier for Jesus to be less crowded by teaching outside, rather than in a home?
Mark 4:1-2 = Even outside He was crowded, taught from a boat - Last week on parables
- Who, most likely, owned this boat?
Luke 5:1-3 = Simon (later called Peter) - Became a fisher of men after this
- What did Jesus decide to do after teaching parables from this boat all day?
Mark 4:35 = Sail to the other side of the Sea of Galilee
- What, according to Matthew, prompted Jesus to want to go to the other side?
Matthew 8:18 = He saw the crowd
- Was Jesus trying to get away from the crowd of people? = Demonic story is next week's lesson
Mark 5:1-2, 15, 20 = No, He had plans to drive out demons and to teach today's lesson
- How are we sure that Jesus wasn't just trying to get away from the crowds?
Mark 5:18, 21 = He returned to a crowd rather than a secluded spot
- Why would Jesus sometimes leave crowds that wanted Him to stay?
Luke 4:42-43 = There were too many others who needed Him

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Stormy Weather (*Mark 4:35-37*)

What indications do we get from Mark that Jesus had specific reasons for crossing the lake?

Mark 4:35-36 = They went *just as He was* and there were other boats with them

How did Jesus pass the time while sailing across the lake? = Only mention of Jesus sleeping

Luke 8:23 = Jesus went to sleep to rest from His exhaustive work

How strong was this storm? = Greek word is *seismos* - also used for *earthquake*

Mark 4:37 = Furious, waves broke over the boat; *kaluptesthai* - boat hidden by waves

Seismos on the Sea (*Matthew 8:23-24*)

Sea of Galilee - Actually a lake, 13 miles N-S, 8 miles E-W, 150 ft deep, 680 ft below sea level

Not uncommon for normally calm waters to suddenly turn violent from strong storms

The unique location of hills & valleys channel & compress storms & winds like a funnel

Such storms can last for days and create waves up to 20 feet tall

Dr W. M. Christie tells: A company of visitors were standing on the shore of Tiberias, and, noting the glassy surface of the water and the smallness of the lake, they expressed doubts as to the possibility of such storms as those described in the gospels. Almost immediately the wind sprang up. In twenty minutes the sea was white with foam-crested waves. Great billows broke over the towers at the corners of the city walls, and the visitors were compelled to seek shelter from the blinding spray, though now two hundred yards from the lakeside.

What effect did this *seismos* have on Jesus?

Matthew 8:23-24 = None, He kept sleeping

Wouldn't Jesus be soaked and unable to sleep if *waves swept over the boat so it was nearly swamped?*

Mark 4:38a = He was sleeping in the stern – on an elevated platform in the back

Why wasn't Jesus concerned about the great danger from this storm?

Luke 8:22 = It was His (God's) plan to go to the other side for a purpose

Psalms 4:8 = He could sleep in peace trusting the Father for safety

Experienced Sailors (*Matthew 8:25*)

How acquainted were the disciples with sailing this boat on this lake?

Mark 1:16-20 = Simon, Andrew, James, John lived fishing from this boat on this lake

How did these skillful sailors react to this violent storm?

Matthew 8:25 = They were scared for their lives and asked Jesus to save them

What made things even scarier?

Mark 4:35 = It was dark – they left in the evening

How did the disciples feel about Jesus not getting up on His own and taking care of them?

Mark 4:38 = They wondered if He really cared about them

The Master Cares (*Matthew 8:26*)

How did Jesus show them that while the storm didn't bother Him, He cared for their fears?

Luke 8:24 = He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters

How much rebuking and yelling did Jesus have to do to get the wind and waves calm?

Mark 4:39 = Said "Quiet!" to the wind and "Be still!" to the waves

How could Jesus make the sea completely calm with just a few words? = Ps - You still the surging sea

John 1:1-3 (Psalm 89:9) = Jesus is the Word of God, everything was created with & thru Him

How was the sea created in the first place?

Genesis 1:9-10 = The sea itself was made with the simple spoken word of God

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Fear Insurance (*Matthew 8:26*)

Was Jesus upset that they had awakened Him with their fears?

Mark 4:40 = No, but He was upset that they were afraid in the 1st place - lack of faith

How did fear of the storm show that the disciples had weak faith?

John 14:1 = They were troubled and didn't fully trust God and Jesus

Were the disciples wrong to bring their fears to Jesus? = Get His peace

Philippians 4:6-7 = *Do not be anxious about anything, but ... present your requests to God*

What should we remember when we encounter scary situations in life?

Psalms 56:3 = No - *When I am afraid, I will trust in You.*

The Lesson (*Matthew 8:27*)

What did the disciples think about what they had just seen?

Matthew 8:27 = They were amazed at Jesus' power

How does Mark describe their response?

Mark 4:41 = They were terrified

Does Luke make it clearer whether they were in fear or amazed at what they had seen?

Luke 8:25 = They were both afraid and amazed

Why had Jesus allowed the disciples to go through all this stress just to learn this lesson?

Hebrews 12:11 = Tough lessons may not be enjoyable, but they bring growth

Did Jesus want them to go through all of this fear? = Their fear showed them their lack of faith

Mark 5:36 = No, He only wanted them to believe

What should we remember whenever we encounter great storms in life?

Romans 8:28 = *In all things God works for the good of those who love Him*

Our Sailing Partner (*Mark 4:35-36*)

What is our situation before we put our trust in Jesus?

Ephesians 2:1 = Eternally dead in our sins

What invitation do we have?

Mark 4:35b = An invitation to go over to the other side

What is waiting for us when we cross over to the other side?

John 5:24 = Eternal life

Do we have to make this journey alone?

Mark 4:36 = No, Jesus is in our boat and other Christians are with us

What is the boat where we can find Jesus?

Jesus is in the Boat of the Heart - Colossians 1:27; 1 John 4:4

Jesus is in the Boat of the Church - Psalm 46:5; Deuteronomy 23:14

Jesus is in the Boat of the Scriptures - John 5:39

Jesus is in the Boat of Providence - Romans 8:28; Matthew 28:18

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The Sea of Life (*1 Peter 5:8-9*)

Since Jesus is with us, will our journey be smooth and calm?
Matthew 24:6 = No, there will be wars and rumors of war
Will our journey at least be smoother than that of non-Christians?
Acts 9:16 = No, we will suffer for His name
Why would a Christian have more difficulties than a non-Christian?
1 Peter 5:8-9 = Because Satan has to put more effort into us

Jesus in the Boat (*Deuteronomy 31:6*)

When we encounter storms on life's seas, does that mean Jesus has left us?
Deuteronomy 31:6 = No, He will never leave us
Knowing that Jesus is always with us, what might we think when we're caught in a storm?
Psalm 44:23-24 = That Jesus is asleep and doesn't care
What should we remember when we feel Jesus is coming to our rescue too slowly?
2 Peter 3:9 = He is not slow, He is patient and wants us to repent, not perish

Storms on the Sea (*1 Peter 5:7*)

What should we do as soon as we see a storm brewing and begin to fear?
1 Peter 5:7 = *Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you*
How are we helped through storms when we cast our anxieties on Him?
2 Thessalonians 3:16 = The Lord of peace will give us peace at all times and in every way
How can a little peace get us through the furious storms we encounter in life?
Philippians 4:7 = It's not just a little peace, it's the peace that goes beyond our understanding

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. To which side will I arrive at the end of my journey on the sea of life?
(*Matthew 25:31-34, 46; John 3:14-16, 36; 5:28-29; Romans 2:5-11; Galatians 6:8; 1 John 3:14-15; Revelation 20:11-15*)
2. When have I recognized Jesus riding in the Boat of my Heart?
(*Mark 4:36; John 14:20-23; Romans 8:9-11; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 2:20; 5:16-26; Ephesians 3:16-19; Colossians 1:27; 1 John 4:4*)
3. When have I recognized Jesus riding in the Boat of the Church?
(*Exodus 29:45-46; Deuteronomy 23:14; Psalm 26:8; 46:5; Zechariah 2:5; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:22-33*)
4. When have I recognized Jesus riding in the Boat of the Scriptures?
(*Luke 24:27, 44-45; John 1:45; 5:39; Acts 8:26-40; 13:27; 17:11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8*)
5. When have I recognized Jesus riding in the Boat of Providence?
(*Genesis 22:8, 13-14; 50:20; Jeremiah 29:11; Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Timothy 6:17*)