

MANEUVERING THE STORMS OF LIFE

MARK 4:35-41 // DAYO IDOWU
JANUARY 19, 2020



When the storm comes, would you not prefer to be on the shore rather than in the storm? But being in the storm with Master Jesus rather than being on the shore alone is the greatest insurance package anyone can pray for!

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is a personal situation, either resolved or ongoing, that could be represented by the metaphor of a storm? What fears did/does that storm evoke for you?

It was evening when Jesus directed his disciples to sail across the open water. This activity gave them a break from direct contact with the crowds and allowed Jesus time to rest physically, which he demonstrated by being asleep in the stern. For a moment, all appeared relatively calm, but it changed suddenly. Do you think Jesus was aware that a violent storm would arise before he led them out on the waters?

What changes when you think about the experience of fear/doubt as an opportunity to develop more trust in Jesus?

Looking at the dialogue of this passage, what did the disciples begin to fear/doubt as the boat started to fill with water (v. 38)?

Why is it good to have our fears about God's concern for our well-being exposed?

How did Jesus respond to their doubts about surviving the storm? What does that suggest he may be willing to do in your case?

Do you believe that Jesus can control the circumstances of life so that you are not harmed against his will? What indication do you have that this is true?

Jesus calmed the storm with a single command. The disciples marvelled that he ruled the wind and waves, but Jesus' concern was to see them increase their faith and diminish their fear. This storm turned out to be a test that revealed the relationship between weak faith and strong fear. If Jesus gave you the same test today, how do you think you would respond?

We know from the book of Acts that the disciples were led to overcome their fears about dying, and they fearlessly proclaimed the gospel to the world. They demonstrated a fierce faith and dependency on prayer, which they passed on to the church. Life provides us with many occasions to experience doubts and fears. God's plan to transform us includes times where we will feel helpless, small, weak, alone, afraid, and even ashamed. Our personal storms can stir up these emotions in powerful ways. Prayer helps us bring these emotions to God as we attempt to continue walking in faith. Given your current levels of fear and faith, what adjustments could be made in your prayer life to help you find greater confidence in the storms?