

“The Wind Ran Out of Breath”

Mark 4:35-41

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Sermon Series: Your Story and God's: How Ancient Words Shape Our Life

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THE BIG IDEA

No one lives a storm-free life. Some of the storms in our lives are caused by unwise decisions we've made, but other storms happen even when we're living in obedience to God, just as the disciples encountered a storm when Jesus had asked them to go to the other side of the lake in their boat. Sometimes the storms make us question whether God even cares for us, just as the disciples asked Jesus if he cared they were in the storm while he napped. The miracle of Jesus calming the storm reveals to us the power of the God who cares for us so much that he died for us. No storm in our lives is a match for the power of Jesus Christ!

GETTING STARTED

There are three troubling parts of this story that teach us three truths.

1) Even when we are in God's will, we will still encounter storms. But the promises and words of Jesus are trustworthy. We can't let the storms of our lives get between us and the promises of Jesus.

2) When the disciples woke Jesus up from his nap they asked him, "Don't you care about us?" This is a very human question when we are engulfed by problems in our lives. Even though the disciples knew Jesus' teachings about himself and the Kingdom of God, they needed to *experience* who he was. We can't believe in Jesus's care for us unless we experience it...which often happens in the storms of life.

3) After the storm calmed, Jesus scolded the disciples, asking if they *still* had no faith. In our lives we are given the choice to have faith in Jesus' power. Jesus' power over sea and storm show us that NONE of the storms in our lives are a match for the power of Jesus, King and Lord of all.

Can you recall a time in your life when you had to face a "storm" (a challenge, a rough time period, etc.) and can you now see how God's power cared for you in the storm, or how God calmed the storm?

LEARNING & LIVING OUT SCRIPTURE

Together, read **Mark 4:35-41**

1. Why do you suppose Jesus wanted to go to the other side of the sea?
2. Why do you suppose Mark included some details in the story, such as that Jesus went "just as he was"?

3. Why do you suppose this particular storm was so frightening for the disciples, several of whom were fishermen who were used to sailing?
4. What about this story unsettles you, challenges you, or makes you a little uncomfortable?

LIVING OUT “REAL LIFE”

5. What type of storm might you have in your life right now? What truths from this story can aid you during the storm?

THE “EXTRA-MILE”

6. Read further in the Gospel of Mark, chapters 5 and 6. What additional miracles does Jesus perform and what do they teach us?

SHARING & PRAYER REQUESTS