

Dancing in the Storm

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Mark 4:35-41

Is it possible that after 9-11 we will ever feel completely safe again from terrorist attacks on our soil? It is doubtful. On the one hand, we had better get used to fear. On the other hand, there is a word in this text for all Christians – NOT. The tension between these two thoughts is one I'm sure we all experience.

As Christians our faith should overcome our fears, not the other way around. In verse 40, Jesus gives voice to this tension. He says to them, "WHY ARE YOU AFRAID? DON'T YOU HAVE FAITH?" That tension between faith and fear is what we want to explore.

- When the storm was blowing, they were afraid
- When the storm was stilled, they were still afraid
- When Jesus was asleep, they were afraid
- When Jesus was awake, they were afraid
- When they don't get what they want, they are afraid
- When they got what they wanted, they were afraid

1. FEAR AND FAITH AT NIGHT

You remember the story. Jesus says to the disciples – "LET'S GO TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHORE." As soon as they got in the boat and launched out, Jesus fell asleep. Now this was no big deal at first. A storm blew up, but these guys were fishermen. Only problem was that this was a category 5 storm. Their area of strength was no longer sufficient. In desperation they call out to Jesus: "**DON'T YOU CARE!**" This is not too different from us.

- Lord, my baby is sick – don't you care?
- Lord, my marriage is in shambles – don't you care?
- Lord, my finance are a wreck- don't you care?
- Lord, the cancer is spreading – don't you care?

One commentator puts the emphasis on "WE." "WE" are your disciples. **WE** are faithful followers, unlike those who have not followed you.

Psalm 3:5 “I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.”

Psalm 4:8 “In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, make me to dwell in safety.”

Why was Jesus sleeping? HE WAS TIRED! His head rested not just on the leather cushion in the stern of the boat: His head rested in the lap of His Father.

ILLUSTRATION: Jan is a light sleeper. Every so often she will wake me up because she hears something. Once I figure out what it is I go right back to sleep because I know everything is fine. KNOWLEDGE BATTLES FEAR.

Peter was a prominent figure on the boat. 1 Peter 5:7 says “Cast all your care on Him for He cares for you.” THE TRIALS THAT COME WHEN JESUS SEEM TO BE SILENT ARE NOT DUE TO ANYTHING OTHER THAN HIS DEEP AND LOVING CONCERN. HE CARES AS MUCH ABOUT OUR TRIP ACROSS THE WATER AS HE DOES WHAT WHAPPENS ALONG THE WAY.

2. FEAR AND FAITH IN DAYLIGHT

Jesus woke up and said literally “PEACE” to the wind and “BE MUZLED” to the waves. Verse 41 says **THEY BECAME VERY MUCH AFRAID. Why the terror?** They were just beginning to get a little insight into the PERSON and WORK of Christ. Verse 41 says WHO THEN IS THIS, THAT EVEN THE WIND AND THE SEA OBEY HIM?

You can be certain that they were impressed by His POWER, but even more they were impressed by His AUTHORITY. Adam, the first man, was given dominion over creation. His charge was to exercise and bring all of creation under the authority of the Lord, but he blew it.

Paul says that Jesus comes as the SECOND ADAM. He too has authority and dominion over all creation. He exercises that authority here in this text.

He would eventually take all the judgment that comes from Adam’s misuse of that authority upon himself and free us from the judgment of God upon our sin.

In the days of the writing of the NT, little was known about the vast oceans. Water symbolized something that stood as a barrier. REVELATION 21:1 – THEN I SAW A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH, FOR THE FIRST HEAVEN AND THE FIRST EARTH HAD PASSED AWAY, AND THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY SEA.

The sea was the source of many unknowns in John’s day. Our worlds are also filled with many unknowns – and those unknowns tend to produce fear and uncertainty.

In the same way Christ has taken upon Himself all the condemnation and punishment of sin, He has likewise taken upon Himself all the fears and uncertainties of life.

Just like the disciples, we will never be satisfied with what He is doing. Perhaps that is the whole point. Jesus does not desire that we find our comfort and consolation in what He is doing, **BUT WE LEARN TO FIND OUR COMFORT AND CONSOLATION IN WHERE HE IS AND WHO HE IS. FEAR NOT!**