

# **“Peace be Still”**

Mark 4:35-41

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

## **Introduction:**

Years ago, a farmer owned land along the Atlantic seacoast. He constantly advertised for hired hands. Most people were reluctant to work on farms along the Atlantic. They dreaded the awful storms that raged across the Atlantic, wreaking havoc on the buildings and crops.

As the farmer interviewed applicants for the job, he received a steady stream of refusals.

Finally, a short, thin man, well past middle age, approached the farmer. "Are you a good farm hand?" the farmer asked him.

"Well, I can sleep when the wind blows," answered the little man.

Although puzzled by this answer, the farmer, desperate for help, hired him. The little man worked well around the farm, busy from dawn to dusk, and the farmer felt satisfied with the man's work.

Then one night the wind howled loudly in from offshore. Jumping out of bed, the farmer grabbed a lantern and rushed next door to the hired hand's sleeping quarters. He shook the little man and yelled, "Get up! A storm is coming! Tie things down before they blow away!"

The little man rolled over in bed and said firmly, "No sir. I told you, I can sleep when the wind blows."

Enraged by the response, the farmer was tempted to fire him on the spot. Instead, he hurried outside to prepare for the storm.

To his amazement, he discovered that all of the haystacks had been covered with tarpaulins. The cows were in the barn, the chickens were in the coops, and the doors were barred.

The shutters were tightly secured. Everything was tied down.

Nothing could blow away. The farmer then understood what his hired hand meant, so he returned to his bed to also sleep while the wind blew.

## **Transitional Statement:**

Thinking back over this year many of us have had storms in our lives. Here within our church family we have lost loved ones and friends, some of us have had family struggles, some of us have had storms in their marriages, many of us have wrestled with deep concerns for our children, we have had folks lose their jobs, a number of us have had surgeries and sickness of some kind, more than a few of us have struggled spiritually. But how shall we respond to the storms of our lives?

## Read:

Mark 4:35-41

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

## Lesson:

### I. First of all, Jesus lead them into the storm

A. Jesus said *"Let us go over to the other side."*

1. He knew that the storm would come while they were on the water.
  - a. It was prophesied from times of old.

*Psalms 107:24-31*

*24 They have seen the works of the Lord,  
And His wonders in the deep.*

*25 For He spoke and raised up a stormy wind,  
Which lifted up the waves of the sea.*

*26 They rose up to the heavens, they went down to the depths;  
Their soul melted away in their misery.*

*27 They reeled and staggered like a drunken man,  
And were at their wits' end.*

*28 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,  
And He brought them out of their distresses.*

*29 He caused the storm to be still,  
So that the waves of the sea were hushed.*

*30 Then they were glad because they were quiet,  
So He guided them to their desired haven.*

*31 Let them give thanks to the Lord for His loving-kindness,  
And for His wonders to the sons of men!*

2. He could have said, guys let's wait till the morning.
3. But He didn't !

B. Jesus, on purpose, took his disciples out on the Sea of Galilee

1. The text says it was evening...nightfall
2. He knew they would get scared maybe even terrified
3. Did you catch that there was more than one boat?

C. So why would Jesus on purpose lead his people into a storm?

1. Because they needed to be there to learn a lesson
2. We have in many ways bought into the idea that God should keep us completely out of the storms of life....

a. But I think if He did... He wouldn't love us.

## II. So the storm came

A. A storm is one thing but if your out on the water in a boat it takes on new meaning

1. Have you ever been in a storm while on a boat?

a. What about at night?

2. There is no shelter to be found
3. The nearest land is somewhere beneath you and covered with water

B. Mark used the term squall

1. The sea of Galilee is 8 miles wide and 13 miles long and nestled among mountains and geologically suited for big storms.
2. A squall is a strong storm that usually comes on suddenly

C. So we find the Lord's disciples out on a boat with Jesus in the middle of a storm

1. The wind began to blow

- a. They didn't have a weather radio or hear any sirens
- b. This thing just jumped up and pounced on them

2. The waves got high

a. Luke says the waters were raging

3. Their boat was nearly swamped

- a. Luke here adds they were in great danger
- b. Probably bailing

4. They were afraid of perishing.....utter destruction.... i.e. drowning

D. Brethren when we see the storms of life coming we can easily become over whelmed and scared.

1. But maybe God is working through the storm.

2. Maybe God is in the storm

- a. Job 38:1 NIV "Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm"
- b. Maybe God uses storms to mold us, to shape us and help us grow

-James 1:2-4

*“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”*

- c. It has been said that people are like tea bags you don't know what they are made of till you put them in hot water.
- 3. Sometimes God chooses a storm or a trial of life to teach us or to get our attention.
  - a. But are we listening?

### **III. Jesus was asleep**

- A. I can just imagine their thoughts
  - 1. Here we are in a massive storm
  - 2. We are scared
    - a. In great danger
    - b. We might die
  - 3. And where is the Lord
    - a. Excuse me have you seen Jesus
    - b. We need Him.
- B. You would think he would be up here encouraging us or leading us in a prayer or doing something.
  - 1. Did he fall overboard or something?
- C. But they found Jesus asleep in the back of the boat on a cushion
  - 1. You know many times in life's storms we loose our focus and we too desperately search for Jesus when He is right by our sides.
  - 2. Let us not forget the words of Duet 31:6
    - a. God will never leave us
    - b. God will never forsake us

\*In our darkest storm God is there !

### **IV. The disciples question Jesus**

- A. Don't you care?
  - 1. Lord the storm is pressing in on us and we are going to die
  - 2. Don't you care about us?
  - 3. Do we tend to think like this when things are not working out the way we expect them to.

B. Jesus' mind probably went forward in time to the cross

1. Certainly He thought "you have know idea how much I care for you"
2. I wonder if the disciples remembered asking Jesus this question when they saw Him on the cross.

C. Can you imagine such a pity party

1. Oh God doesn't care for us
2. John 3:16 says He cared enough to give His only son

D. Church Satan has conned many folks into thinking that God doesn't care for them.

1. Something terrible happens in their lives and they conclude God didn't care
2. But church its nothing more than the devils schemes
  - a. The screw tape letters, written by C.S Lewis really cause us to stop and think about the great lengths Satan goes to, to take you away from God.
  - b. But church we must never think, not even for a minute that God doesn't care about us.

#### **V. God shows that He is still in control.**

A. Jesus rebuked the winds and hushed the sea saying "Peace be Still"

B. And immediately there was a great calm

1. The winds stopped
2. The waves lay down
3. Instead of harsh winds and a rocking boat, a gentle peace encompassed them

C. And you could almost hear the voice of God say.... "I'm in control"

D. Church I think it important here to say that God doesn't always intervene in the storm.....sometimes He lets it run its course.

E. But the important thing to note is that He is in control.

#### **VI. And to this Jesus brings up the point of the storm.....Faith !**

A. Jesus says "oh ye of little faith"

B. Maybe the real storm wasn't a physical one with wind and rain

1. But a storm of doubt that raged within their hearts.
2. God wants us to know who we have believed in and that He is able 2 Tim 1:12
3. He wants us to put the full weight of our trust in Him.

**Conclusion:**

**Is there a storm brewing in your heart today?**

**Does your faith let you sleep while storms blow through your life?**

**Jesus is here for you, with a peace that surpasses understanding....**

**Won't you trust in Him?**