

Jesus Calms the Storm Mark 4: 35 - 41

4³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Jesus Walks on the Water Mark 6 45 - 52

6⁴⁵ Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. ⁴⁶ After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray.

⁴⁷ Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. ⁴⁸ He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, ⁴⁹ but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, ⁵⁰ because they all saw him and were terrified.

Immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." ⁵¹ Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, ⁵² for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

Last week we saw Jesus heal the 10 lepers. What did we learn about Jesus (and the lepers) then?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What do we learn about Jesus (and his disciples) this week?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Closing prayers

Points to bring out might include:

Mark 4 – Jesus had spent the day teaching the crowds about the kingdom of God in parables. The disciples had been there listening – but were still shocked when they saw Jesus calm the storm. Are there ever times when you have heard God’s word, but then been surprised when you have seen Him at work?

Jesus rebuked the wind. The Greek word for rebuked also translates as “throttled”. It’s a very strong, almost violent word. Does that help us to teach us something new about Jesus? (Power? Strength? Authority?) It’s the same word used when Jesus ‘rebukes’ evil spirits in the Bible.

Mark 6 This story immediately follows the feeding of the 5000 – hence the comment at the end that the disciples had not understood about “the loaves”. What does walking on water have to do with loaves of bread??! What was the point that the disciples had missed? (That Jesus was not just showing them that He could/can meet people’s needs, but that He was showing them His glory – showing them that He is God, on whom we can rely for everything.)

How long does He let them struggle on the lake before walking to them? Why? (All night! Remember the Sea of Galilee is 7 miles across. Jesus is compassionate and quick to heal and to save, but ultimately, His mission is not just to make our life easy/problem free. Sometimes He lets us struggle, He lets us battle, and pray, and wait, because that is for our good. (He uses all things for the good of those who love Him. *Romans 8:28*) We learn to rely on Him, to discover that when times are hard, He doesn’t simply make them better – sometimes he sits with us and holds us close. Remember this is God, who chose to be born into a crowded stable –

squeezed into life alongside us. As we learn to depend on Him, whatever is happening, then we deepen our understanding of His love – and that will last us for eternity. Miracles aren’t quick fixes, they are windows into God’s love for us, and His compassion and His power, and might, and majesty over everything. This is our father God.)