

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus' Identity: "Who Is This?"

Focus Passage: Mark 4:35–41

Other Passages Referenced: Genesis 1:1-3; Exodus 14; Psalm 88:1-7, 13-18; Mark 15:33-34; Luke 8:25

Sermon Recap

Satan introduced the ultimate to humans, the lie that we can somehow save ourselves. Believing that lie seems to be the default until we realize our need for a Savior. We can observe four reactions in Mark's account of the storm endured by Jesus and His disciples in Mark 4:35–41: (1) The disciples' reaction to the storm (v. 38); (2) Jesus' reaction to the storm (v. 39); (3) Jesus' reaction to the disciples (v. 40); and (4) the disciples' reaction to Jesus (v. 41). In the midst of the storm, waves were overwhelming the boat with water and the disciples recognized that they could not save themselves. The action progresses from a "mega-storm" to "mega-calm" to "mega-fear" of Jesus who even the wind and waves obeyed.

The disciples awoke Jesus, who was asleep, asking if He even cared they were about to perish. Jesus rebuked the storm, calming the winds and waters. The disciples realized their need for a savior from the present storm, but they didn't recognize that Jesus was the Savior they needed beyond that storm. We move from fear to faith when the figurative and literal storms of life lead us to recognize that we cannot save ourselves and that Jesus is the Savior we need.

Group Gathering

Group Check-in — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Discuss how it went as everyone tried to take steps of obedience to what they sensed God saying to them.

Allow the Word to Speak — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

READ Mark 4:35–42

1. What from the passage or sermon was most impactful to you?
2. Were you left with any questions or confusion about the passage or sermon?
3. In v. 38, what was the disciples' reaction to the storm?
4. In v. 39, what was Jesus' reaction to the storm?
5. In v. 40, what was Jesus' reaction to the disciples?
6. In v. 41, what was the disciples' reaction to Jesus?

Put the Word into Practice — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. What is your answer to the disciples' question in v. 41: "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"
2. Think of a recent figurative or literal "storm" experience in your life that confronted you with the reality that you could not fix the problem? ... Did you go through a process that moved you from fear to faith? ... Can you think of how you might have reacted more healthily?

3. What tends to cause mega-fear in you:
- Unexpected major expense
 - Relational conflict
 - Sickness
 - The political candidates you voted for do not win the election
 - _____?

How might you move from mega-fear to trusting God?

4. The disciple's mega-fear was identified as fear of Jesus who demonstrated power over the storm as the divine Creator. When it comes to more fully trusting and surrendering to Jesus, what mega-fear(s) do you need to overcome?

The Big Question: What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

- The Chapel will host the Community of Faith Mission's homeless shelter from January 10 – 17. You may find more information and a sign-up [here](#).
- Other opportunities to serve during the Christmas season at the Chapel, with Grove Christian Outreach, and The Salvation Army, or to participate in a Red Cross blood drive at the Chapel can be found [here](#).

Further Resources – Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org