

God is Good, All the Time; All the Time, God is Good!

We say it all the time: "God is good — all the time; all the time — God is good." And we mean it... when things are going well.

- New house? God is good. Promotion? God is good.
- The raise? God is good.

But what happens when the storm hits?

- When the diagnosis comes back, when the marriage cracks,
- When the money runs out — do we still say it?

That's the question of Mark 4. Because the disciples are about to discover that the goodness of God is not measured by calm seas, but by His presence in the boat.

Here's where we're headed, and I want to give it to you up front, because everything in this story drives toward it.

- The storm you're in is real — but the question every storm forces is **never** really, "**Will I survive?**" It's, "**Who is in the boat with me?**" And the answer of Mark 4 is the most **comforting** — and the most **terrifying** — truth in all of Scripture: the Mighty God of the universe is in the boat with you.
- Keep that question in your pocket this morning: Who is in the boat with me? Because in just a few minutes, these disciples are going to ask it out loud — and the answer is going to change everything.

Mark 4:35-41 - On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." ³⁶ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Mark 4:39-41 - ³⁹ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Observation #1 — Storms Come into Every Life:

Sometimes Through **Disobedience, Sometimes Through Obedience**

- We need to be honest: some storms are of our own making.
- The writer of Hebrews reminds us that the Lord disciplines those He loves (Heb. 12:5–8).
- **Hebrews 12:5-8** - And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

- Sin has consequences, and sometimes God uses the storm to chasten His children and bring them back.

Sometimes Through Disobedience, Sometimes Through Obedience

- **Mark 4:35** - It was Jesus who said, "Let us cross over to the other side."
 - He intentionally sent the disciples into that boat.
 - Difficult circumstances are not always the result of personal failure; sometimes following Jesus leads directly into life's storms so we can learn deeper truths about Him that we could never learn on the calm shore. [David Platt Sermon Link](#)
- There are things we learn about God and ourselves in the calm that we could never learn in the storm. And there are things we only discover about God and ourselves—not from the safety of the shore, but in the middle of a raging storm.

Size of the Storm... This was no ordinary Storm.

Mark 4:37 - And a **great windstorm** arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

- Mark uses **hurricane** language to describe the storm.
- Matthew describes it in seismic, **earthquake** proportions.
- The word Jesus uses for their fear in verse 40 is *pani* — sheer panic.
- And remember, at least four of these men made their living on the sea. They had seen storms before. This one was killing them.

Observation #2 — In the Storm, We Are Tempted to Doubt God's Care

When the storm raged and water filled the boat, Jesus was asleep on a cushion

- Notice the last part of **Mark 4:38** – In their panic they cried out, "**Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?**"
- Sound familiar? Ever been there? When crisis hits, the same core fear rises in all of us:
 - *Where is God? Does He care?* Psalm 22:1 "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?"
- In times of trouble and trial, in the midst of the storms of life we tend to question God's love and concern.
- Notice the tone of the disciples... verse 38, "**Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?**" Sounds rather rude, doesn't it. Never mind that He is sleeping, exhausted from the weight the ministry.
- I see myself in this reaction of the disciples.
- Time and Time again, Jesus has proven Himself faithful to me, and yet when caught by surprise and put into a vice of difficulty and trouble, I fume rather than show faith.

- C. H. Spurgeon, the great Baptist preacher said, "God is too wise to err, too good to be unkind; leave off doubting Him, and begin to trust Him, for in so doing, you will put a crown on His head" (Vol. 3:1857, #156, "Fear Not").
- Let's crown Him in faith, not doubt Him in unbelief.

As a Side Note: This is an Eyewitness Account – This is Mark, writing from Peter's account of the events of the day...

Why This Eyewitness Account Rings True

1. Legends flatter; testimony records shame.
 - The early church revered the apostles — no one invents a story of Peter panicking in a boat. Mark also records Peter being called "Satan" (8:33) and denying Jesus at the trial (14:66–72).
 - People don't fabricate their own humiliations.
2. Myth is vague; testimony is specific.
 - Peter remembers the time of day, the other boats, even the pillow.
 - Useless details are what eyewitnesses remember — and what legend-makers never invent.
3. Cowards became confessors.
 - The Peter who cowered before a servant girl boldly proclaimed the gospel at Pentecost and gave his life for it (Acts 2:1–4).
 - Men don't die for a lie!
 - What you do see is growth and transformation of these men
 - Remember Peter cowers to a young girl during Jesus' trial, yet boldly proclaims the Gospel on the day of Pentecost
 - What changed? The indwelling Holy Spirit and the power of Jesus' resurrection!
 - By the way the same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us!
4. The Spirit records truth, not polish.
 - The disciples' bewilderment is preserved — "Who can this be...?" (Mark 4:41).
 - Real witnesses ask questions (John 16:12). Legend-writers give their heroes all the answers.

The church didn't write this to look good — it wrote it because it was true. And the Spirit who inspired the record is the one who transformed the witnesses.

Observation #3 — The Real Point of the Story Is the Identity of Jesus

Few stories in Scripture have been more misunderstood and misapplied than this one.

- This passage is **not primarily about Jesus getting you through the storms of life**—though He certainly can and does. It is about something far greater: **Who Jesus is.**
- It is about the One who is sovereign, all-powerful Lord, whom demons rightly recognize as God (Mark 5:7) and whom we should fully trust.

The disciples traded one fear for another.

- They began the night afraid of the storm. But when Jesus stood up and commanded the wind and the sea, their fear shifted.

- They were no longer simply afraid of the storm; they stood in **holy awe of the One who commanded the storm.**

One fear is anxious and faithless. The other is awe-filled and worshipful.

- **Faith is not the absence of fear. Faith is when the fear of the Lord becomes greater than the fear of the waves.**

And that brings us to the question that changes everything:

- **"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"** — Mark 4:41
- There it is: It is the question we asked at the beginning: **Who is in the boat with me?**

That is the point of this story. Not simply that Jesus can get you through the storm, but that **Jesus is Lord over the storm.**

- So let's answer their question—and ours.

Here is where I want to spend the rest of our time unpacking these two truths...

Behold His full humanity... and Behold His full divinity.

Behold Jesus' Full Humanity – Mark 4:38

The Bible repeatedly teaches our Lord's full and true humanity.

He was perfectly Human – **Mark 4:38** – ***"But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow.*** And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

The boat is filling with water. The wind is screaming. Grown men — veteran sailors — are in sheer panic. And Jesus is asleep. On a pillow.

- Here's something you may have never noticed: this is the only time in all four Gospels that we read of Jesus sleeping. The Bible records His birth. His baptism. His teaching. His miracles. His trial. His death. His resurrection. But only once — right here — do we read that He slept.
- Why does that matter? **Because Jesus was fully human.** Not half human. Not human-looking. Fully human. He got hungry — after fasting forty days and forty nights, the text says, "he was hungry" (Matthew 4:2). He got angry — when His disciples shooed away the children who wanted to see Him, Jesus was indignant: "Let the little children come to me" (Mark 10:14). He felt the hot, protective anger any good father feels. He wept — at the tomb of His friend (John 11:35). He died — on a Roman cross. And now, in this boat, He slept.

Think about that day. It began before dawn and never stopped.

- Teaching. Healing. Crowds. Walking. And by evening, Jesus was so exhausted He could sleep through a hurricane. Have you ever been that tired? So tired you could sleep through anything? That was the Son of God. His "sound machine" was set on waves — the storm was literally his white noise.

- And here's the picture Mark wants you to see: the veteran seamen — men who made their living on this lake — are panicking. But the carpenter from Nazareth sleeps soundly through it all. What faith. What trust.

Because here's the thing about that sleep: it wasn't just exhaustion. It was trust.

- Jesus had complete confidence in the providential care of His Father. He knew who He was. He knew what He had come to do. He knew His work wasn't finished. Lottie Moon, the great missionary to China, used to say, "We are immortal until our work on earth is finished." Jesus could sleep in the storm because He knew His work — the cross, the tomb, the resurrection — was still ahead of Him. He was confident in His Father's promise to see Him finish it.

So what does this have to do with you? Everything.

- Because when the storm hits your life, and you wonder, "Does God even know what this is like?" — the answer is in this verse. He knows. The One in the boat with you is not a distant God looking down from a safe distance. He is a God who gets tired. Who gets hungry.
- Who weeps. Who feels the hot anger of a father defending his children. Who knows what it is to be human, because He was. The Mighty God of the universe is in the boat with you — not above it.

But there's something else about that sleep. Something that should make the hair stand up on your neck. Because the same Jesus who slept like a man... is about to wake up and do something no man has ever done. Danny Akin Sermon - [Link](#)

Behold Jesus' Full Divinity – Mark 4:39

Now watch what just happened.

The same Jesus who was asleep on a pillow moments ago — the exhausted man, the carpenter from Nazareth — rises, and speaks.

Mark 4:39 - Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

- A few quiet words: "Peace, be still." And the hurricane stops. Mid-roar. Instantly. Not gradually. Not with a struggle. "The wind ceased, and there was a great calm" (Mark 4:39).

Here's what you need to understand about those words.

- In the Greek, the command is one word: *phimōthēti* — literally, "be muzzled." Not "please calm down." Not a prayer. A muzzle. The idea is: shut your mouth and keep it shut. Be still and stay still.
- And notice the other word Mark uses: Jesus rebuked the wind. It's the same word Mark uses when Jesus silences demons (Mark 1:25). He doesn't negotiate with the storm. He doesn't ask the storm. He rebukes it — the way a master silences a dog. The Creator commands, and creation obeys.

Notice the last part of verse 39 – "...**and there was a great calm.**"

- The Calm was as sudden as the storm – One commentator said, "Placid as a pond"

- Storms usually subside gradually
 - 33/40 Weather App – We see the storm approaching – We feel the intensity, and we watch it go over our heads.
 - During those storms many of us are glued to James Spann hoping he does not say our name...watching waiting for the storm to pass, and then we hear it... we hear it let up
 - This storm stopped immediately
 - **THE CREATOR COMMANDS, CREATION TO CEASE ROARING**

Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm (Mark 4:39).

Now, think about what the disciples had already seen.

- They had watched Jesus heal the sick. Cast out demons. Even — days before — raise the dead. But this was different. This was power over disaster itself. Over the wind. Over the sea. Over the raw, untamed creation that these veteran sailors had spent their lives respecting and fearing. And He did it with one word, after a nap.

The Bible teaches that God — and only God — is thrice "omni."

- Omniscient: He knows all things. Omnipresent: He is everywhere. Omnipotent: He is all-powerful.
- And here, standing in a leaking boat, is a man who just silenced a hurricane. The demons had already recognized Him — "Son of the Most High God" (Mark 5:7). Now the disciples were beginning to see it, too. They had traded one fear for another. They stopped fearing the storm and began fearing — in holy awe — the One standing in the boat. "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!" (Mark 4:41).

Only God could do this. Jesus must be God.

- But watch Him now — because this is where the point gets personal. His disciples had just shaken Him awake and accused Him to His face: "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38). He could have chastened them. He had every right to be offended. Instead, He asked a question — gently: "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mark 4:40). The Mighty God of the universe, who just muzzled a hurricane, turns to the frightened men in the boat with grace.

That is your answer. Who is in the boat with you?

- Not just a man who gets tired like you. Not just a friend who understands your storms. The God who commands what you cannot. Omnipotent. Sovereign. And kind. He is mighty — and He is gracious.
- So the diagnosis, the cracked marriage, the empty account — these answer to Him. They do not answer to you. That is the whole point of this story: the One in the boat with you is the Mighty God over storms.

How can both be true — that He is fully one of us, and fully God?

- Because in one Person, two natures are joined. Paul says it in one breath: Christ, "in the form of God" (Phil. 2:6), "humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:8, ESV). The One who slept like a man is the One who muzzles hurricanes.

Call to Action:

There's one more thing this story teaches us — and it may be the thing you need most. It's about fear.

- Look at the disciples' fear. In the storm, they were panicking — sheer panic. Fear of the water. Fear of dying. That's anxious fear. It's the fear that comes when you can't see the outcome and you can't control it. It carries the weight of every worldly worry — the diagnosis, the bills, the marriage — because you're carrying it alone.

And here's the hard truth: anxious fear is incompatible with faith.

- Jesus said it Himself: "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mark 4:40). He didn't ask, "Why are you afraid?" Fear isn't the sin.
- He asked, "Why are you so fearful?" — the kind of fear that forgets who is in the boat.

But now watch what happens in verse 41.

- The storm is over. The danger is gone. And the text says they "feared exceedingly" — they were terrified. Of what? Not the sea. "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!" They were afraid of the One standing in the boat.

That's the second kind of fear — awe-filled fear.

- Reverence for God's supreme greatness. It's the fear you feel at the edge of the Grand Canyon. It's the fear of realizing that Almighty God Himself is standing in the boat with you.
- Faith is not the absence of fear. Faith is the fear of the Lord replacing the fear of the waves. One fear is anxious and faithless. The other is awe-filled and worshipful. The disciples traded the first for the second — and so can you.

So when the storm hits, don't ask God to make you unafraid. Ask Him to show you who is in the boat. Because the fear that remains — the awe — is the beginning of worship. [Platt Link](#)

If you're here this morning and you're not sure what you believe — hear this.

The question the disciples asked in the middle of the storm is the most important question you will ever answer: **"Who is this?"**

- And Jesus eventually put that question directly to His disciples: **"Who do you say that I am?"**
- Because the answer to that question changes everything

The One who stood in that boat and commanded the wind and the waves is the same Jesus who went to the cross for your sins, died in your place, and rose again.

- He doesn't simply want to be a force you turn to when the storms come. **He invites you to know Him—to trust Him, to follow Him, and to call Him Lord.**
- The Mighty God who silenced the storm wants to be in the boat with you—not simply as someone who can calm your circumstances, but as the Savior who can change your life.

And it begins with a simple confession: **"Jesus is Lord."** — 1 Corinthians 12:3

- If you're ready to make that confession—or maybe you're still searching and simply want to know more—come find me after the service.
- **I'd love to give you a Bible, talk with you, and pray with you.**

Conclusion:

So here is the truth of this story — and it is both the comfort and the challenge. Jesus may not calm every storm you face.

- The diagnosis may not clear. The marriage may still hang in the balance. The money may not come back. The Bible never promises that. But this story does promise something far greater: you are never alone in the boat. God Himself — in the person of Jesus Christ — will be with you every step of the way (Mark 4:39-40).
- Faith, you see, is not confidence that the storm will end soon. Faith is confidence that no matter what wind and waves come your way in this world, the God of the universe is right there in the boat with you. His power and presence will see you through.

So the question this morning is not, "Will the storm pass?" It never was.

- The question is the one the disciples asked in the middle of the sea: Who is in the boat with me? And for the believer, the answer is settled.
- The Mighty God of the universe is in the boat with you. He was there before the storm rose. He is there now. And He will be there when you reach the far shore.

God is good — all the time. All the time — God is good.

Resources:

Why This Eyewitness Account Rings True:

1. Legends Flatter; Testimony Records

The early church revered the apostles. No one would have *invented* a story showing Peter and the Twelve as panicking, faithless, and crying out in terror. And remember whose account this is: church tradition tells us Mark wrote down Peter's preaching — Peter's own memoirs. Yet the Gospel records Peter's humiliations without flinching: Jesus calls him "Satan" (Mark 8:33), and Peter denies knowing Jesus at the trial (Mark 14:66–72). People do not fabricate their own shame. This is the fingerprint of honest eyewitness memory, not legend-building.

2. Only an Eyewitness Remembers the Pillow

Mark, drawing on Peter, remembers the time of day, the other boats in the water, even the cushion Jesus slept on. Myth is vague and grand; testimony is specific and incidental. Those small, useless details are exactly what a man who was *there* remembers — and exactly what a legend-writer would never think to include.

3. The Transformation of the Witnesses Is the Strongest Evidence

Look at what the Spirit did with these same men. The Peter who cowered before a servant girl at the trial — and panicked in the boat — boldly proclaimed the gospel on the day of Pentecost and ultimately gave his life for it. What changed? Acts 2:1–4: the indwelling Holy Spirit and the power of the resurrection. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us (Rom. 8:11). Men do not die for what they know to be a legend — and these men knew the difference. Their transformation is the Spirit's living testimony that the record is true.

4. The Holy Spirit Preserves Truth, Not Polish

Here is the theological heart: the Spirit's inspiration (2 Tim. 3:16 — "God-breathed") does not sanitize the disciples. It faithfully records their fear — because the truth needs no embellishment. The Spirit of truth (John 16:13) lets us see cowards become confessors, so that we understand: if grace could transform *these* trembling men, it can transform us. And notice the disciples' own bewilderment is preserved — "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (Mark 4:41). Real witnesses sound like this. Legend-writers would have given the disciples supernatural knowledge from the start. Instead we see progressive revelation (John 16:12) — real men, in real time, coming to a real conclusion about who Jesus is.

David Platt's message, [You Are Never Alone Opens in a new window](#), focuses on the story of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4:35–41, applying its truths to times of chaos, uncertainty, and fear.

This sermon, titled ["Trust the One Who Controls the Storm" by Dr. Daniel Akin](#), addresses Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4:35–41. The author emphasizes that the story's main purpose is not simply about Jesus helping us through life's trials, but revealing His identity as the sovereign Lord of creation who commands total trust.

Main Takeaways & Themes

- **Divinely Ordained Circumstances:** Jesus intentionally led the disciples into the storm. God uses everyday trials to bring us to the end of ourselves so we rely entirely on Him as Savior.
- **The Full Humanity of Jesus:** Jesus experienced physical exhaustion and slept through the hurricane-force winds. His ability to rest demonstrates complete trust in God's providential care.
- **Panic vs. Faith:** The disciples panicked and questioned Jesus' love and care ("Do you not care that we are perishing?"). Fear and outburst in crisis stem from losing faith in the One who is trustworthy.
- **Divine Authority Over Nature:** By commanding the wind and sea to be silent with a word, Jesus demonstrated His true deity. Only God possesses this level of absolute power.
- **Purpose of Trials:** Jesus rebuked the disciples for their fear to teach them discipleship and build their faith. Trials serve as opportunities to deepen spiritual trust.
- **Settling Jesus' Identity:** Observing Jesus' power produced an even greater fear in the disciples than the storm itself. Everyone must confront and answer the question: *"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*.
- **The Ultimate "Storm":** Jesus is presented as the true Jonah who endured the storm of God's wrath on the cross so believers could be saved from judgment. Because He conquered sin and death, He can be trusted to handle any storm in life.