

I) V35-41 INTRO: On the same day when evening had come He said to them Let us cross

II) As we have seen, Mark gave us several of the parables that Jesus spoke to a multitude

He gave the parable of the seed and the soils, the lamp on the lampstand, the mysterious growth of the kingdom, and the parable of the mustard seed

III) These parables were intended to separate the wheat from the chaff
The chaff was not interested in what He taught, and would not pursue understanding

IV) The wheat would listen carefully, and desire to gain more understanding
Ps 107:9 He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things

V) Jesus said His followers were granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom (4:11)
God graciously gave to them understanding of the things that He was doing

VI) This was an act of grace, as He revealed to them things of the kingdom

VII) On the other hand, to those who were outside of the kingdom, all things came in parables
Jesus said that they may see, but not perceive, hear but not understand (4:12)

VIII) In this way the interested gained understanding and the uninterested would move on
Mk 4:25 For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him

IX) Jesus gave many parables and in doing so exposed the unbelief of many
Though the unbelievers did not receive what He said, His followers did
When He was alone with His disciples, He explained to them everything

X) V35 On the same day when evening had come He said to them Let us cross over to the

XI) Jesus had been on the shore, teaching an immense group of people (4:1)
There were so many He had gotten into a boat while the crowd gathered on the shore

XII) As the long day is coming to an end, Jesus now tells His men it is time to leave

He is near the city of Capernaum, and He is leaving to the eastern shore of the lake

XIII) As we have seen, He ministered constantly, almost non-stop
He had a consuming desire to perform His Father's will to the very end
Heb 10:7 Then I said Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of Me—to do Your will O God

I) Wherever He was crowds would gather and His fame has spread throughout the land

II) Though He had ministered throughout the day, the day wasn't over and He needed to go
So He said to His men Let us cross over to the other side

III) They all needed to rest, and the crowd was great so Jesus wanted to cross the lake
The other side of the lake had less population, and He and His men could rest

IV) His desire to leave the area is more than likely in order to continue ministering to others
It is not just to get away from the pressure of the crowds

V) Jesus came to minister to the people, and was teaching His disciples to do the same
He came to minister and to preach because the people needed to hear His message
Mk 1:38 Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth

VI) In the training of the 12, part of their training would be to learn patience and endurance
Ministry is an ongoing thing, and the disciples need to learn this

VII) It is intense labor and can include long hours but it is not without reward
Heb 6:10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

VIII) Sometimes His disciples became so tired they wanted to simply get away from crowds
Mk 6:35-36 When the day was now far spent, His disciples came to Him and said, "This is a deserted place, and already the hour is late. Send them away, that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy themselves bread; for they have nothing to eat.

- IX) Jesus needed to teach them endurance and concern for others
- X) Some people think that serving God is like a regular job, with set hours
These men are being trained to be servants of God
- XI) As we will later see, there was another reason why He needed to leave
We will examine that next time we are together
- XII) V36 Now when they had left the multitude they took Him along in the boat as he was
Jesus had been sitting in this boat throughout the long day
Mk 4:1 tells us that Jesus got into a boat and sat in it on the sea
- XIII) The boats were probably owned by Peter and Andrew or James and John
 - I) They had left the fishing business but retained use of their boats
This made it possible for them to make them available to Jesus when needed
 - II) Without leaving this boat, He now orders the disciples to set off for the other side
 - III) V36 Now when they had left the multitude they took Him along in the boat
Other boats were brought to accommodate those who were traveling with Him
 - IV) At first it was calm, and they were sailing at a smooth and steady pace
Those in His boat as well as the others in the small boats were at peace
More than likely, there was an excitement to be accompanying Jesus
 - V) This peace didn't last long
 - VI) V37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat so that it was
In the cool of the evening, a sudden storm strikes
 - VII) V37 Great windstorm speaks of a tempest; violent gusts of wind
This is a violent shaking; It is so violent that it even shook the water
 - VIII) Lu 8:23 says the windstorm came down on the lake
The wind is rushing down from the slope on the western side, whipping up the waves
 - IX) The sea of Galilee is surrounded by hills and is like a basin
Wind from the sea blows through a cleft, meeting cool air from Mt

Hermon

The cool air makes contact in the basin with the warmer air, and becomes violent

- X) The waves were crashing on the boat and filling it with water
It was like a hurricane on the water, violently shaking the boat and filling it**
- XI) V38 But He was in the stern asleep on a pillow**
- XII) Jesus was exhausted: He has ministered all day, and was now asleep**
- XIII) The howling of the wind, the rocking of the boat and water pouring in did not wake Him
He was lying on the wooden floor, with a thin cushion cradling His head, sound asleep**
- XIV) Nothing going on around Him was able to wake Him up, or disturb Him
With all of the commotion around them and fear that filled them, they see Him asleep**
- XV) Immediately they cry out to Him because they know their lives are in danger**
 - I) These are experienced fisherman who had lived all of their lives near the sea
They knew that nature was not something that they could control
Everything was out of their power, and they were convinced that they were going to die**
 - II) There, right in front of them, is the miracle worker they have come to believe in**
 - III) Jesus had already performed many miracles and supernatural works before them
He had turned water into wine, cast out demons, cleansed lepers, healed the paralyzed, and healed the man with a paralyzed hand and many with severe afflictions**
 - IV) He had even given them authority to perform amazing works
Mk 3:15 (He gave them power to) heal sicknesses and to cast out demons**
 - V) Jesus is a miracle worker, so why isn't He performing a miracle in our time of need?**
 - VI) Mt 8:24 The boat was covered with waves
Mk 4:37 The waves beat into the boat so that it was already filling
Lu 8:23 They were filling with water and were in jeopardy (great danger)**

VII) V38 And they awoke Him and said to Him Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing

VIII) While he slept peacefully, notice the reaction of His men: They were terrified

IX) These experienced fishermen were certain that there was nothing that could be done

Mt 9:25 His disciples came to Him and awoke Him saying Lord, save us!
We are perishing

X) They thought that they were about to meet their Maker and forgot: they already had!

XI) V38 NOTICE: Teacher, don't you care that we perish?

Matthew used the word Lord and Mark called Him teacher: He is both
They were sure that they were about to die, and He was asleep
In the midst of their chaos, He seems to be selfishly taking care of His own needs!

XII) They're in darkness, with the noise of wind, and waves and water are soaking them

Again, the boat is beginning to fill with water and these sailors are in danger

We don't know what to do! Wake up and find a way to help us!

XIII) With a bit of disrespect His disciples feel pushed to wake Him up

Why are You sleeping when we are all in danger? We are perishing!
By this time they should have been fully aware of His love for them!

I) Don't You care that we perish?

II) This is a question that people of faith will ask the Lord

It isn't something that unbelievers would necessarily question

III) Unbelievers do not rest their entire faith and hope on God because they don't know Him

IV) The most unbelievers can do is question the goodness of God, if there is One
They are more prone to saying: If God is good, then why doesn't He help me?

V) This is more an attack on the existence of God than a question of the goodness of God

VI) Their question is more: Why is God silent when I cry out to Him?

The answer is: He doesn't exist, or simply doesn't care about people like me

VII) On the other hand, believers have tasted and seen the goodness of God
He has shown Himself in personal ways to us, and we have come to trust Him

VIII) When something threatens our life or dreams, we can immediately wonder why
Why are You allowing this? Why don't You help me?

IX) You see me in danger, but it seems to me that You simply do not care
Ps 10:1 Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do You hide in times of trouble?

Ps 13:1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will You hide your face from me?

Ps 44:23-24 Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord? Arise! Do not cast us off forever. Why do You hide Your face, And forget our affliction and our oppression?

X) FACT: We all go through various things and none of us are exempt from hard times

Jn 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

This causes us to draw near to Him in order to learn that He is always with us

XI) It is through these times that the Lord draws most close to us

XII) It is in times of fear that we are compelled to draw near to God, seeking His help

What am I going to do? How can I survive? I am paralyzed by my fear and am boxed in

XIII) In our fear and frustration we call on Him because we need Him to save us from perishing

Jas 4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you

I) It is interesting how the question is Do You not care that we are perishing
As is typical in times like this, the question is asked in the plural
I am not the only one dying! There are others who are also afraid and I represent them!

II) What was His response?

III) The disciples are about to learn a tremendous lesson

**God is aware of their every need and does not leave them nor forsake them
(Jer 33:3)**

**IV) V39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind and said to the sea Peace, be still
He heard the cry and immediately responded to it
Ps 18:6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God;
He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears.**

**V) V39 He rebuked the wind and said to the sea Peace be still
He admonished the wind and told the sea to be silenced (be muzzled;
calm down!)**

VI) V39 IMMEDIATELY THE WIND CEASED: And there was a great calm

**VII) Jesus reveals to us that we worship a God who acts on our behalf
He is not distant from us, but is personal and alive and helps us in times
of trouble**

**VIII) Jesus is the Master over creation: He speaks a word, and nature responds
Ps 89:9 You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still
them.**

**Ps 107:29-30 He calms the storm, So that its waves are still. Then they
are glad because they are quiet; So He guides them to their desired haven.**

**IX) V40 But He said to them Why are you so fearful How is it that you have no faith
Fearful: Cowardly, timid**

**X) Men, you asked Me a question a moment ago: now allow Me to ask you one
Why are you so fearful? Why are you so faithless?**

**XI) AT FIRST: You might not understand why He is so confrontational
a) The answer is before us: In reality, Jesus had sent them into the
storm**

**XII) Why would He do such a thing
Storms and times of uncertainty actually are used by the Lord to teach
us trust
Each person who trusts in the Lord goes through storms that test them
in every way**

**XIII) THE OBVIOUS APPLICATION IS SIMPLE: God wants to change our fear into
faith**

I) He does this by placing us where our faith is tested and strengthened

II) As we experience a trial our faith is purified, refined by what we go through

1 Pe 1:7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

- III) **Many Americans are undergoing a time of great anxiety and even fear
Daily we are being bombarded by statements that are causing even believers anxiety**
- IV) **The pressure to receive COVID vaccines has divided the nation
Of course, such a decision is to be made in consultation with our doctors
It is a choice that each person should be free to make for themselves**
- V) **What is interesting is how people are responding to the virus and vaccines
Many are living in anxiety, and that is a very sad way to live**
- VI) **Many people are living in fear, including Christians
Of course, those who have pre-existing conditions need to be cautious
There is no need to presume upon the grace of God and to put Him to the test**
- VII) **On the other hand, we need to remember that there have been 730, 368 COVID deaths
In a population of 332, 278, 200 this represents a death rate of .002214%
Though there is a chance of dying of the virus, the odds are extremely small**
- VIII) **When it comes to receiving a vaccine, such an act can be wise
I am not advocating for or against vaccines, again this is a personal choice**
- IX) **What I find interesting is something put out by Centers for Disease Control 10/22/21
In Aug of 2021, 21% admitted to hospitals with COVID were fully vaccinated. The proportion of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 who are fully vaccinated is expected to increase as *more people get vaccinated* even though these vaccines are highly effective against hospitalization and death.**
- X) **Why did I bring this up? Because many Christians are living in fear**
- XI) **I am in the age group that is vulnerable to greater impact
I chose to put my trust in the Lord and to live in peace
Is 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God.**

I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

- I) **In this story: Why was Jesus so confrontational with His men?
Why did He question their faith**
- II) **The answer to this question is found in V35
Jesus had said: Let us cross over to the other side**
- III) **ANSWER: He intended to make it through the entire journey and they would too!
As long as they were with Him, they were perfectly safe**
- IV) **This is why He could sleep: He was going to make it and so were they!**
- V) **He was with them and they had no need to fear
Mt 28:20 Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age!
Heb 13:5 Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you
Josh 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.**
- VI) **And they feared exceedingly and said to one another Who can this be that even the wind
Once again they are afraid, but this time it is a holy fear**
- VII) **Who is this Man, really?
He is the Lord of the earth and the Lord of the sea
Ps 89:8-9 O LORD God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. You rule the raging of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.**
- VIII) **POINT: With Jesus in the midst, there will never be anything to fear
Ps 4:8 I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety**
- IX) **Does He care? Yes, of course He does**