

Even the Winds and the Waves Obey Him

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley, Sunday, January 25, 2026

There is a powerful passage in Mark chapter 4, verses 35 through 41. It tells us that Jesus and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee. The Bible says a great storm arose—so fierce that the waves were breaking over the boat. The disciples were afraid they were going to perish. And Jesus was in the boat... asleep.

They woke Him and said, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”
And Jesus arose, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still.”
And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Then He asked them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”
And they said, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

Storms have a way of reminding us that we are not in control.
One moment everything feels normal, predictable, routine. And the next moment, a storm comes suddenly. It can be a literal storm like the one we’re facing tonight, or it can be a storm in life—unexpected news, financial strain, health concerns, family struggles, fear, uncertainty.

The disciples in this passage were experienced fishermen. They knew storms. They knew boats. They knew how to navigate rough waters. But this storm overwhelmed them. Their skills, their experience, their resources—none of it was enough.

That’s what storms do. They strip away the illusion of control.

We don’t realize how dependent we are on electricity, infrastructure, routine, and stability until it’s threatened. We don’t realize how fragile life can feel until something disrupts it.

And that’s exactly where the disciples were—out of control, overwhelmed, afraid.

But the good news is this: Jesus was on the boat.

Even when He seemed silent.
Even when He seemed asleep.
Even when their faith was shaken.

He was still present. He still cared. And He still had authority.

When they cried out to Him, He responded. And with a word, the storm obeyed Him.

Even the winds and the waves obey Him.

Storms also remind us how great God is.
There is a reason the hymn How Great Thou Art speaks of thunder and storms. When we see the power of nature, it should remind us of the far greater power of the Creator.

And it should humble us.

Pride tells us we are in control. Pride makes God small in our lives.
But storms have a way of putting God back in His rightful place—big, sovereign, holy, powerful.

And when God is big in our lives, worship flows.
Humility grows.
Trust deepens.
Peace settles in.

The disciples feared the storm—but after Jesus calmed it, they feared Him with reverence. They realized they were in the presence of Someone far greater than the storm.

And that's what we need to remember tonight.

Even if we must go through the storm, we can have peace because Jesus is with us.
Even when our resources fail, His power does not.
Even when our faith feels weak, His faithfulness is strong.

Friend, there is nothing more frightening than facing life without Jesus.
To be dependent only on circumstances, only on yourself, only on your abilities—that is a fragile foundation.

But when Jesus is on the ship of your life, you have hope.
You have peace.
You have Someone who hears you when you cry out.

The Bible says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

If you know Him tonight, call out to Him. Worship Him. Trust Him.
If you do not know Him, call on Him. He will hear you.