

NETCAST ORIGINAL DEVOTIONALS

Series: Knowing Jesus

Date: March 30, 2026

Scripture: [Mark 4: 35-41](#)

Title: Control Issues

Author: Esther Baird

Read: [Mark 4: 35-41](#)

Devotional:

The forecast called for rain - - like a soaking, flooding, torrential washout. And we were throwing a party with the Chewnings for our two graduating daughters in our backyard. Beth Chewing can make any event look magical, and she had a whole team of friends who could turn our yard into a twinkling celebration.

If the weather cooperated.

It didn't. It was basically a swamp.

Standing in the tent we had thankfully rented (so at least the food was dry), I stood next to Matt and said, "Do something! You're the pastor!" Matt just pulled up his hoodie and stepped onto one of the outdoor carpets - - slowly sinking into water - - so his Jordans didn't get soaked.

We couldn't fix the weather.

Full disclaimer: five minutes before the party started, the rain stopped. The ground never dried, but the party went on with a slightly "damp" vibe.

Nothing makes us crazier in New England than the weather. And of course, that's not a new problem, we see it in our passage today.

You may know the story of Jesus calming the storm and think, "Okay, Jesus calmed the storm, he's God." But it's the details that help us really know him.

First, Jesus had been teaching all day. The crowds were so large he had to teach from a boat just to have space. Afterward, he explained everything privately to his disciples. By evening, they had spent the entire day learning who Jesus was, what the Kingdom of God is, and how they were part of it.



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Devotional cont.

Second, Jesus was tired. That matters because it reminds us he was fully human. He taught all day... and he needed rest.

So when they set out across the lake, there shouldn't have been confusion. He was Jesus, the Messiah. He was bringing the Kingdom of God. He had just explained it all. But when the storm whipped up, the disciples panicked. Everything they had heard that day disappeared in the face of fear.

When they woke Jesus, he simply commanded the storm to be still. And in that moment, they were just as shaken by his power to control the wind and waves as they had been by the storm. They hadn't fully grasped who he was.

Jesus said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Once again, we see that the answer to fear is faith - - faith that Jesus truly is in control and invites us into his kingdom now and forever.

Are we like the disciples? Hearing God's word, but panicking when life's waves crash over us? Do we really believe Jesus is who he says he is? Do we trust, deep down, that he is in control and that his plan is good?

When the storm comes and fear rises, it is faith in Jesus that calms our hearts. Not because our faith is so strong, but because he is.

This is the Jesus we need to know. He is in control and he calms our storms.



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Reflection Questions:

- The disciples had just spent a full day learning from Jesus. Why do you think fear so quickly replaced what they had learned? When does that happen in your life?
- Jesus is both fully human (tired and sleeping) and fully God (powerful, commanding the storm). How do these two truths shape your understanding of who he is?
- Jesus asks, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” What fears in your life right now reveal areas where trust in Jesus feels difficult?
- The disciples were amazed and asked, “Who then is this?” How would you answer that question today—and how is your life shaped by that answer?

Notes:
