

MARK — Jesus Lord Over the Storm

Dr. Brian Miller

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Mk 4:35–41.

Hearing Vs. Following

The greatest challenge for many Christians is to go from being a spectator in God’s kingdom to being a follower. The easiest place to hide from God is in church.

When we leave church, we turn off our Christian mind, turn off our faith, and go into our work and other activities as a functional secular. We look at the world as if God didn't exist. What does it mean to bring our faith out of church and into the real world.

A False Storyline

A movie that captures this idea is the Matrix, where robots enslaved humanity to use them as human batteries, keeping them comatose in cells and keeping them sedated with projections of false realities in their head.

Getting out of the matrix is like getting out of a secular matrix and getting baptized into a new reality. The secular matrix sounds like getting a cushy job, with retirement, comfort, and keeping your religion to yourself and not making other people uncomfortable.

How do you know if you're in the secular matrix? Turn and look what you're afraid of. Are you afraid of what people think of you? Are you afraid of never being popular and checking their checkbox of getting the right car with the right finances and being accepted by the right people?

Or are you afraid of King Jesus and what he thinks about you?

God's Kingdom is Inconvenient

Dr. Miller remembered while getting his PhD in physics and said that the kingdom was scary and inconvenient.

Getting into Jesus' boat is way uncomfortable too because you'll be connected to people who are uncomfortable and very different from you.

Just like a tax collector and a zealot were paired together, a Bernie sanders supporter and a Trump supporter are expected to love each other.

The Boat Will Go Through Storms

It's really easy to think you have faith when you don't need faith. When your bank account is full and everything is in place, you don't need faith.

But what happens when betrayal occurs and the market crashes and the pressure is on? That reveals how strong our faith really is. And as the pressures increase and we begin to feel more and more hopeless, we enter a space to grow in our faith.



It's through the trials that our idols are revealed. It shows us that we really care about the perks of life rather than the perks of the Kingdom.

We can either choose to accuse God and say that "you don't care about me," or allow him to heal our souls in that asking what the true source of our fears and anxieties are, what lies we are believing?

Dr. Miller shared about how after graduating with a PhD, he was unemployable and had to take up a job carrying bags at the airport, and he felt the pressure of people thinking he was a failure, and it revealed to him what the idols in his life really are.

He then transitioned into kid's ministry, teaching 5 year olds for three years. And Dr. Miller shared how proud he was that he worked up to being mediocre at working with children instead of being a miserable failure. His principle was this: IF we don't know our calling, help others fulfill theirs and you will learn discernment in the process.

Who Is Jesus?

This whole story is an old testament reference to Psalm ___ and Jonah's story.

Some went out on the sea in ships;
they were merchants on the mighty waters.

They saw the works of the Lord,
his wonderful deeds in the deep.

For he spoke and stirred up a tempest
that lifted high the waves.

They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths;
in their peril their courage melted away.

They reeled and staggered like drunkards;
they were at their wits' end.

Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress.

He stilled the storm to a whisper;
the waves of the sea were hushed.

They were glad when it grew calm,
and he guided them to their desired haven

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), Ps 107:23–30.

Then the Lord sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, “How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish.”

Then the sailors said to each other, “Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity.” They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. So they asked him, “Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?”

He answered, “I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

This terrified them and they asked, “What have you done?” (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

“Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.”

Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried out to the Lord, “Please, Lord, do not let us die for taking this man’s life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, Lord, have done as you pleased.” Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men

greatly feared the Lord, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to him.

The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011), John 1:4–16.

These two stories are incredible parallels showing who Jesus was by linking these stories.



Your choice in the midst of trials is to become bitter and depressed and accuse people or to seek Jesus as a refuge and ask him to hold you up. These are the areas of opportunity for God to transform you so that you can transform others.

God doesn't care about you checking off the secular matrix checklist, but transforming your life into a tree of life that can be a force that will resonate for eternity.

Dr. Miller revealed that all the hardships and failures that God took him through were to prepare him to become a force of good for the nations. He has now spoke out about the evidence for design in nature in all the continents of the world, including Antarctica.

Hear & Obey

If you're looking to Christianity to find comfort and cushiness, go somewhere else. If you're looking for Christianity to be renewed and find purpose and be transformed, then you're in the right place. Stop asking Jesus to get into your boat, and get into Jesus' boat.

Our problem isn't to listen to God's voice but to obey God's voice. He will call us to humble our pride and apologize, seek reconciliation, and putting ourselves out on the line to love other people.