

Who's In Your Boat?

Introduction

Mark 4:35–36 (NIV84) ³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.

The big question this morning is: **Who's in your boat?**

Boats: [show my boat]

The “Jesus Boat” [picture] information

The **setting** for today's passage took place on Jesus' home water, the Sea of Galilee. The lake is 13 miles long, 6 miles wide and 700 feet below sea level, and its greatest depth is 200 feet.

Jesus had been teaching all day, from a boat because of the crowds, and at evening said, “Let's go to the other side.” Share the **Emotions** the disciples must have felt... [resource material]

Sure enough, a storm is exactly what happened: ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

I. The Nature of Storms

A. Storms are often sudden

1. Sudden and violent storms caused by the collision of the warm and cold air, occur regularly.¹
2. Application – life is filled with storm: physical, psychological, financial or spiritual—which are often sudden in their nature. Everything in our lives can suddenly be interrupted with a jarring crisis. (Storms are sudden.)

B. Storms are often stronger than us

1. Many of the disciples were seasoned fishermen who realized they were in serious trouble.
2. Application – some storms create a helpless feeling where we can't use our normal strength. (Share my sinking float tube story) Have you ever felt helpless and in a desperate situation? If only there was somebody that could help.

¹ Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (p. 837). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

(In our passage we not only see the nature of storms, but we also see the nature of the disciples.)

II. The Nature of the Disciples

³⁸ *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?"*

- A. The disciples were afraid for their lives. They Panicked.
I appreciate the honesty of God's word – helps the Bible be believable.
- B. The disciples didn't really realize who was in their boat. They forgot
They should have remembered Jesus' miracles up to this point in following Him, such as healing a leper (chapter 1), healing a paralytic (chapter 2), and healing a man with a withered hand (chapter 3). They had a limited view of Jesus. They didn't realize who was in their boat. Perhaps they underestimated Jesus.
- C. The disciples questioned if Jesus even cared.
We have all been there, haven't we? You are in the middle of a crisis and it seems like God is off somewhere taking a nap. You can almost hear him snoring. He doesn't seem very responsive to your need.
- D. Application – How often do we panic, forget how God has rescued us in the past and even questioned whether God's cares for us? We're just like the disciples, we don't realize who's in our boat.

(So, we've looked at the nature of storms and the nature of the disciples, now we have one more nature to look at, the...)

III. The Nature of Jesus

A. Jesus is fully human

³⁸ *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?"*

1. Jesus is just plain tired from ministering to the crowds.
2. Jesus is filled with absolute peace and trust (the only time the scriptures mention Jesus actually being asleep).

B. Jesus is fully God

³⁹ *He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*

C. Who was in their boat?

1. The one who existed before anything else existed (Col 1:17)
2. The one who spoke all things into existence (Col 1:16)
3. The one who sustains all things by his powerful word (Heb. 1:3)
4. The king of kings and lord of lords (Rev 19:16)

D. Who's in our boat?

1. The one who calms the storm – Peace be still!
2. Application of what that means in our lives.
It is only in the storm that we truly understand who Jesus is.

Conclusion

There is one last nature that I want to point out from our passage today:

⁴⁰ *He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"*

⁴¹ *They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"*

I think the most amazing part of the story is the disciple's reaction to Jesus. When Jesus asks them why they are afraid, it is the Greek word meaning fearful in the moderate sense. But when Jesus calms the storm, the Bible says, "They were **terrified** to their very core and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'"

It's our **fallen nature** to run from Jesus when we suddenly realize that He is the Lord of the universe. Sometimes we reject Jesus because we don't want to be accountable to him. (Embellish on this thought and end with an opportunity for people to invite Jesus into their boat)

Jesus stepped into the boat of humanity to calm our storm, some reject Him today, what is your reaction, Who's in your boat?