

**Miracles of Jesus: Jesus Calms the Storms**  
**Pastor Jay Hassman**  
**September 6, 2026**  
**5-Day Bible Reading Plan and Devotional Guide**

**Day 1: The Command That Precedes the Storm**

Reading: Mark 4:35-36

Devotional: Before the wind rose and before the waves threatened the boat, there was a word. Jesus said, "Let us cross over to the other side." The journey did not begin with a storm. It began with a command. This sequence matters enormously for how we understand everything that followed. The disciples did not choose this crossing. Jesus did. He initiated it. He led them into it. And the destination He had in mind was a Gentile territory, a tormented man living among tombs, a community that had never heard the kingdom announced and was entirely beyond the disciples' natural vision. They could not yet see the purpose. They only had the word. This is often the exact shape of obedience. God does not always hand us the full map before He calls us to move. He gives us enough light to take the next step and asks us to trust that He sees what we cannot yet see. Where is Jesus calling you beyond what is familiar? There is likely someone on the other side of your obedience who needs the mercy and freedom that only Christ can bring. The question is not whether the crossing will be comfortable. The question is whether Jesus has called you forward.

**Day 2: When Fear Rewrites the Character of Christ**

Reading: Mark 4:37-38

Devotional: The storm in this passage is not exaggerated. Mark describes it as a great windstorm. Waves are beating into the boat. The vessel is already filling with water. And among the disciples fighting for their lives are experienced fishermen and these were men who knew this sea, understood its dangers, and recognized when a situation was beyond recovery. Their fear was not irrational. The danger was real. But something else was happening alongside the physical storm. A theological storm was forming inside the disciples' understanding of Jesus. When they could not reconcile His sleep with their suffering, they drew a conclusion about His character: "Do You not care?" They had moved from "I am afraid" to "He is indifferent." And that movement is one of the most spiritually dangerous journeys a believer can make. When prayers go unanswered for longer than we expected, we begin to wonder whether He hears us. When circumstances grow more difficult rather than easier, we begin to question whether He is truly good. When suffering continues without explanation, we begin to suspect that perhaps He does not care as deeply as we once believed.

**Day 3: The Voice Creation Obeys**

Reading: Psalm 89:8-9

Devotional: When Jesus stood and spoke to the storm, He did not negotiate. He did not appeal to a power greater than Himself. He did not offer the wind and the waves a reasonable compromise. He simply spoke. "Peace, be still." And the wind ceased. And there was a great calm. Mark includes a detail that would not be lost on anyone who had spent time on open water. Even after wind stops, waves ordinarily continue. The sea does not settle immediately when the air grows still. It takes time for the water to calm after the force driving it has ended. But in this moment,

both the wind and the waves obeyed immediately. The sea did not merely respond to a miracle worker. It responded to its Maker. This is the identity that the miracle is designed to reveal. Every miracle in the Gospels is, at its core, a window into who Jesus is. The calming of the storm does not merely demonstrate that Jesus can help us when we are afraid. It declares that the One who helps us is Lord over every force that threatens us.

#### **Day 4: Faith That Refuses to Make the Storm Lord**

Reading: Mark 4:40

Devotional: Jesus does not ask His disciples why they were afraid. He asks why they were so fearful. The distinction is important. He is not scolding them for having a natural human response to genuine danger. He is exposing the degree to which their fear had taken on an authority it was never meant to have. Fear had become their interpreter. It told them the storm was ultimate. It told them that the filling boat was the final word on their situation. It told them that the sleeping Jesus was evidence of divine indifference. Fear, when left unchecked, does not merely describe reality. It begins to govern how we understand everything around us, including the character and authority of Christ. Jesus draws a direct connection between their excessive fear and their absent faith. "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" Faith and fear are not simply opposites in the sense that one is positive and the other is negative. They are competing interpretive frameworks. Fear looks at the storm and declares it sovereign. Faith looks at the storm and refuses to grant it that status. This is what Jesus was calling His disciples toward. Not the absence of fear as a feeling, but the refusal to allow fear to function as lord.

#### **Day 5: From Admiration to Surrender**

Reading: Mark 4:41

Devotional: The miracle ends not with calm water but with a question. "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" It is the right question. It is the question Mark has been building toward from the opening verse of his Gospel. And it is the question that every person who encounters Jesus must eventually answer personally. The disciples began the crossing calling Jesus "Teacher." That was true. He was their teacher. But it was not yet enough. By the end of the passage, they are trembling and not with the fear that the storm had produced, but with a different and far greater fear. They are in the presence of the Lord of creation, and they are beginning to understand it. This is the movement the entire passage is designed to produce. Not merely calmer water, but a clearer vision of Christ. Not merely relief from the storm, but a deeper revelation of the Savior. The greatest outcome of the miracle was not the changed weather. It was the changed understanding of who Jesus is.