

Intro

- Fascination with storms. Society or me?
 - o Church story.
 - o Awesome God. Thunder in his footsteps and lightning in his fists- RiCh Mullins
- There is simply something awesome about the power of nature. We try to harness its power. Stop its might and as any good movie goer could tell you... it can't be done by human engineering. The levies will break. The tides will roll in. The waves will tear down and wash away. The wind will blow and the buildings will fall.
- Yet we continue to try and figure out how to predict its path and stop its might. Creation, nature, shows in itself points us to the realization that we are nothing. It points us to something greater than ourselves and we are as Paul writes "without excuse" in seeing that creation points us directly to God.
- This brings us to today passage. A story that so many are familiar with. We grew up with this story. Many of you may have even had it hanging on the walls of your house. A picture of Jesus Standing at the front of the boat, arms out, calling out for the wind and waves to "Calm down and be still."
- Let's examine the story. Dissect it. Explore the context and purpose behind including this story in the Books of Matthew Mark and Luke. How does it fit in the New Testament and whole of Scripture.
- Prayer.

Read Mark 4:35-41

- This account is recorded in three of the four Gospels (Matthew 8:23-27 here and Luke 8:22-25) in very similar fashion. The Mark account is held to be the oldest of the three and as its written a first-hand recounting of more than likely Peter to John Mark who wrote the book of Mark. It's slightly longer and hold some amazing truths that leave the reader standing in awe of what has just transpired.
- It's a passage that many are familiar with and some of you may have even grown up with a picture of Jesus standing in the Boat with the storm all around him on your wall.
- It's a passage that often times gets overlook because its just another story about the power of Jesus and how he is able to calm the storms in your life just like he did on that day. If that is the case then we can stop right here. Pray sing and be on our merry way.
- But this passage is not a promise of clear sailing for those in Christ. It is not a story about Jesus calming every fear of the water that you may have. Its not a story about How Jesus makes life easier by getting rid of the storms.
- While that would be nice. Its not the Gospel.

V35a. "On that day..."

- That day had been an exhausting day for Jesus. The crowds had gathered around the Sea of Galilee to hear Jesus. To catch a glimpse of this man who had been powerfully teaching and healing people everywhere he had gone.
- The account take places not to long after the The Sermon on the mount in Matthew 5-7 and after many miracles and healings, even a raising of the Widows son in Luke 7
- So, to put it into perspective Jesus had been extremely busy. The last while and that day he had been praching from a boat because the crowds were so large that room on the shore was limited. So, creates a platform where all can here by hopping in a boat. (4:1)
- Here in our passage Jesus has just finished one of the most famous parables, The Sower and had taken the disciples aside and explained it to them, then began teaching through parables again.

The Lamp under a basket, The Growing of the kingdom as seeds scattered on the ground and the parable of the Mustard seed.

- After his teaching had ended he speaks to them.

- V35-36 "Let us go across to the other side...."

- Jesus words to his disciples were not particularly inspiring nor were they groundbreaking at the moment. Though the Greek lends the reader to understand that there was some sense of urgency in pushing off toward the other side heading to Gerasenes (Ger-ah-sen-as).
- Why the sense of urgency? Maybe it has to do with his need for sleep as we will get to in verse 38. Maybe it has to do with the entirety of the situation that is about to come upon the disciples.
- So, the disciples are in the boat with Jesus as he had been all day and other boats were along with him. A flotilla you might say.

V37 "And a great wind storm arose...."

- The sea here in Galilee was notorious for storms. It sits well below the sea level of the Mediterranean and with its geographical location and mountainous terrain it made for the perfect location for wind to whip down from the mountains and creates great storms
- This storm was bad. The waves were breaking into and filling the boat. It looked like the end.
 - o It looked like an impossible situation. Out on the sea boat filling waves crashing down all around them. NO coast guard to come and save the day. Where was Jesus?
 - o Its not the first time we have seen a boat at sea in the midst of a storm under threat of breaking apart in scripture. Jonah infamously found himself in a similar situation due to his disobedience to God. Putting his life and the rest of the sailing crew in danger of death.
 - o Paul would find himself in the midst of a storm in Acts 27 as he sailed for Rome. Paul reassures the ships crew that God would protect them and there would be no loss of life.
 - o And its not the last time that the disciples would be in a boat during a storm.
- In a situation like this you would think that everyone would be up and bailing the boat trying to save their lives. Hoisting the sails or whatever they do in order to ride out the storm.
 - o Not Jesus

V38a "But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion."

- The very one who had said let's cross over to the other side is sleeping through the storm of the century.
- Here rests (no pun intended, ok maybe a little and just for Mary as she reads along) a picture of the humanity of Jesus. Tired from a long day of teaching and days of healing and ministry...Jesus falls asleep. This story is the only time we see Jesus Sleeping. He's not just sleeping he is out cold. There is some deep REM going on to be able to sleep through what could be the equivalent of a hurricane.
 - o I'm just old enough to remember HUGO. The power of the wind and rain blowing against the house and the sound of a tornado ripping across the farm. Sleep was not an option at least for my parents as they made sure we were safe and sound and yet here Jesus is sleeping and doing so soundly as the waves filled the boat and all hope seemed lost.
 - o This is not the only time in scripture that Hope seemed Lost. Really it's a common theme through out scripture that the reader may think everything seems lost. That God is distant or sleeping.

- At the edge of the Red Sea with The Egyptian army nipping at their heels. Exodus 14:10 Tells us that “Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly.” The wall of water on one side and the wall of the enemy about to break over them from behind.
 - David standing before Goliath a beast of a man. Israel cowered in the corner.
 - David being hunted by Saul and his men.
 - Daniel in the Lion’s den.
 - Can Forget Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. No one could survive being burned alive.
 - In each of these stories hope seems lost or at least impractical.
 - The disciples do what anyone would do in this situation. They run to the leader.
- V 38b- So the disciples wake up Jesus. “Teacher! (Master-Luke, Lord-Matt) Don’t you care that we’re going to die?”
 - What kind of question is that? Of all the questions to ask of Jesus “Don’t you care?” is not one of them
 - You know how you’ve been taught that there are no silly questions or dumb questions. Its a lie. Just being honest. There are such things as dumb questions. This might fall at the top of that category.
 - Of course, he cares. He has chosen the disciples to follow him because he cares. Jesus has been teaching on the kingdom and healing the sick and raising the dead. Of course, he cares. He has come to earth to take part in the greatest rescue story in history. To die to pay a death that we could not die. Of course, he cares.
 - What the disciples display in that in moment of fear, turmoil, hardship is exactly what we do, doubt, lose faith in the one who cares.
 - We sometime harp on the disciples about this. Look how they doubted. Look at how weak their faith is. But in our moments of fear we are none the different. We stumble to keep our eyes on Jesus and shout out “Don’t you care?”
 - JC Ryle- I want [you] to observe that Peter, and James, and John, and their brethren, were true disciples, and yet not so spiritual but that they could be afraid. I do not tell [you] to make the unbelief of the disciples an excuse for yourself, but I do tell you that it shows plainly that so long as we are in the body we must not expect faith to be above the reach of fear.
 - Fear is not an excuse for doubt, but it is to be expected in these fallen bodies.
 - The disciples in this moment of fear failed to remember is that it was the words of Jesus has set them in their current position. It was the words of Jesus that spoke in Verse 35. “Let’s cross over to the other side of the Sea.” Jesus did not say let’s sail out into the middle of the sea and die. He didn’t say let’s set sail and see who survives. It wasn’t a game of survivor.
 - Jesus’ plan from the beginning was to sail across to the other side.
 - This means that...
 - The Sovereign God placed them in the midst of this storm just as he places us in the storm to deepen our faith and reliance on him.
 - Notice; The disciples were not this situation because of disobedience or sin. But because of OBEDIENCE. Unlike Jonah who found himself in the storm because of a rebellious heart. The disciples set sail out of an obedient heart. Doing as the Teacher had said.

- The storms, trials, we encounter are essential to our spiritual development. Storms shift our reliance on self, to the creator. Storms draw our focus off the world and place our focus on the calmer of the storm.
 - Listen to the words of Peter 1:3-7
 - God brings us, allows us into the storm to reorient our thinking, our perspective, and to challenge our understanding of who he is. Trials to test our faith which is more precious than God. Why because of the inheritance that faith brings. It never perishes nor fades. And it brings honor and glory and praise to God.
 - This does not mean that the storms will not overtake us just because God is with us. For as many bodily rescue stories as we see in scripture, we also see many going through trials in which they bodily didn't survive. Think of Stephen. God was clearly with Stephen before he was stoned. Every day disciples find themselves being obedient and find themselves in the storm. I think of each of the disciples and how their faith was strengthen through the imprisonments, beatings, and other various trials. Ultimately these who right here are questioning the care of Jesus they lost their life in the name of Jesus. I think William Cary who faithfully served in India. He lost his son and wives to sickness. He had moments of doubt and struggle in the storm. Yet through the storm God molded him and strengthened his faith and reliance on Him.
 - So many faithful have succumbed to the storms, to their sickness, their broken relationships, their loss of jobs to death of their loved ones or themselves. This does not mean that God does not care!
 - Of course, he cares. He created you in his image for his glory. We may not understand the storm at the moment nor may we understand it this side of heaven. But will never grow spiritually we will never learn the power of God unless we go through the storms.
 - Let me make this clear...Satan does not want the faithful to go through storms. Especially here in the west I believe...He wants our lives to be as easy as can be so that our reliance isn't on the king of kings but on the self. He doesn't want there to be a crying out to God in the midst of the storm. Satan knows that in the storm is when God builds and molds the believer.
 - Because Satan knows the master. What he is capable of.
 - Count it joy as James says "when you meet with trials of various kinds." (1:2)
- Read vs 39 "He Got up, rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Silence! Be Still!"
 - Now the ESV uses the term Peace here. The Greek term here phimoo (fim-ah-o) might be better translated at Hush or Quiet! Jesus is speaking with complete and utter authority as if he were speaking to a living and breathing object.
 - Immediately The wind ceased and there was calm. The sea became like glass. Perfectly still.
 - Jesus shortly before was sleeping in the back of the boat, a picture of his humanity. Now he stands before the storm and speaks, and calm is restored. Instantly.
 - This was not a slow decrease in wind and the waves. If it had been gradual it would have left the disciples thinking "ok? Was that really Jesus speaking or was that just he natural course of the storm". Instead, it was an instant halt. The

disciples would be familiar enough with the Scripture to understand that only God has control over the wind and the waves.

- Job 38:11 reveals the power of God to shut the sea with doors as its bursting forward. "Thus far shall you come, and no farther, here shall your proud waves be stayed." Job is speaking to the power of God's hand over his creation.
- David sings of the one who established the mountain and "Who still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves." Psalm 65:7
- The Psalmist writes again Psalm 104:6-7 "You covered it [the earth] with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they fled, at the sound of your thunder they took flight."
- In remembering the crossing of the Red Sea again "He rebuked the Red Sea" He being God. "and it became dry and he led them through the deep as through a dessert." Psalm 106:9
 - God provided, through the power of the word safe passage across the sea.
 - At Jesus words the sea calms, the winds cease and Peace is restored fears are squashed and Jesus reveals who he is.
- Only at the voice of God can the water react as if they were not an inanimate object. Why?
 - Psalm 77: 16-20 "When the waters saw you, O God. When the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled."
 - Creation bows before its maker.
- Only God can control nature in such a way that it obeys. Humanity knows this without a doubt though we often act to the contrary. We try to wall it off and yet the levies break. We build the largest of ships and yet they still sink. We can only predict and hope that we are prepared. Nature can only be controlled by the one who created it by his word.
- The seas are his the wind is at his control. "You blew with your wind; the sea covered them..." speaking of the Egyptians at the Red Sea Crossing Ex 15:10
 - Only the one who reigns over creation can do as Jesus has just done. Only God. In this short passage we have seen that Jesus is both fully human needing rest of a weary day to Speaking Absolute calm over creation.
 - Jesus then turns to his disciples
- Read v40. "He said to them..."
 - Christ is in the Boat with them. The one that has been teaching and performing miracles. He is riding the storm with them and yet their fear has overcome them.
 - The disciples asked if Jesus Cared that they were dying? Jesus responds with two-part question "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" A rebuke. No faith.
 - The disciples have been exposed to the capabilities of Jesus. Should not the fact that Jesus was sleeping during this horrific storm not point to his trust and faith that his time had not yet come. As Jesus rested his trust and hope was in the father and his word.

- The disciples had forgotten the words of Jesus **"Lets go across to the other side."**
- How often do we forget the words of Jesus? When we do not hide the words in our hearts and the storms descend upon us, we find ourselves crying out "Don't you care?"
 - "Why are you afraid? Of course, I care." Do you not know what I have come to do for you? I chose you. I sealed you. I intercede for you. I have sent the helper to guide you and sanctify you. Does that not show how much I care?
 - When we are not saturated in the word; When we are not in communion with the Savior; when we quench the Spirit; that is when we forget who is in the ship with us.
 - **The early church picked upon the symbolism here from Mark. Christ is in the ship with the church on the stormy lake of this world. He shares the boat with us. Because he shares it with us it will never sink. It cannot sink because its not our boat it's Jesus' boat. He reigns supremely over his church and because of that reign it will never sink. Jesus doesn't tell peter that he will build Peter's Church upon Peter. He Say **"Upon you I will build MY CHURCH, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."** (Matthew 16:18)**
 - The church will go through trials. It will suffer losses but ultimately it will never sink or fail.
- Verse 41 "And they were filled with great fear...."
 - An overwhelming sense of "awe" came upon the Disciples. The understanding here is that great fear is the type of awe inspiring fear one gets when they are in the presence of something divine. What they had just witnessed went beyond what they had already seen. Jesus had been dealing with demons and people. Animate objects. Here he has dealt with creation itself.
 - The power put on display leaves them with a storm in their own heart. Who is this? He speaks and it listened. Doubt should not be in their vocabulary.
 - "Who is this?" they ask. The answer is God. Fully God and Fully man.
 - We must ask ourselves the same question. Who is Jesus? Is he simply a good teacher of morality? Is he who he says he is? Is the sure and steady anchor in the fury of the storm?
 - If he is then believe upon him and allow him to calm the storm of sin that drives us from the presence of God. It is Through Christ that the Justified wrath of God against our sin is satisfied we are reconciled to God. Faith in Christ, true repentant faith in Christ leads us into the loving hands of God
 - This morning if you are simply looking for words or a good story to reassure you things will be ok. I can't give you that. But I can offer you something else. I want to invite you to Christ. Believe in Him, He will mold you and shape you through the storms so that no matter the ending you stand in awe of His power and Glory.

Lets pray.