

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Mark 4:35-41

TRUST GOD'S WORD

Jesus did not say "Let us go into the midst of the sea and drown in a storm."

He said, *"Let us go over to the other side."* Mark 4:35 (NIV)

But the disciples didn't trust the words of Jesus when they were caught up in a storm. This shows that the disciples still didn't understand Jesus' authority. They were committed to Him as their Messiah, but they hadn't yet realized that Jesus was Lord even over the physical elements

"Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!" Mark 4:41(NIV)

"Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble." Psalm 119:165 (NIV)

"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You." Isaiah 26:3

"If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction." Psalm 119:92 (NIV)

FAITH OVER FEAR

Analytical Literal Translation: Verse 37 "Then a great storm of wind comes, and the waves were splashing into the boat, with the result that it is already being filled."

Yet Jesus asked them, *"Why are you so afraid?"* Mark 4:40

Jesus went on to ask why they didn't have any faith. The implication was that if they had faith in what Jesus had told them, they wouldn't have been fearful.

Faith kills fear, just as fear kills faith.

The antidote to fear is faith.

"the righteous live by faith." Habakkuk 2:4

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging." Psalm 46:1-3

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4

Jesus is saying here in verse 40 – "Why are you so afraid even after I am there in the boat?"

The phrases like "Fear not" and "Don't be afraid" are used 365 times in the Bible.

Jesus says in John 14:1 *“Let not your heart be troubled.”*

“Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.” Romans 10:17

Fear comes by hearing the world and Satan.

The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7 - *“God did not give us a spirit of timidity (KJV: fear), but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”*

REMEMBER GOD’S GOODNESS

We have got to understand that not all storms are from God.

In verse 39 we can see that Jesus rebuked the wind.

Jesus certainly wasn’t rebuking the Father or something that the Father caused.

This shows that although God does sometimes control the weather (1 Sam. 12:16-19; Job 37:11-13; Ps. 107:25; Jon. 1:4), it is not always so.

Satan can bring storms with God’s permission (Job 1:12, 18-19), and storms can be caused by natural means too.

The New Testament understanding of God is that He allows storms into our lives, not always causes them.

The disciples asked Jesus, *“Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”*

The fact is that God does care for us.

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

Robert Wise’s words seem very wise when he advises us not to question why. He says “knowing that God stands with me means that I really don’t have to have an answer for the all-mysterious ‘whys’ of my life.” Wise suggests that instead of asking why, we need to ask: What does this mean for me, and how can God use my situation?

I like the response of Job when he couldn’t understand what was going on in his life. The Bible says that *“... He fell to the ground in worship and said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.’”* Job 1:20-21

Jeremiah 29:11 says, *“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”*

Acts 10:38 says that *“Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him.”*

John 10:10 says *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

These scriptures don't mean that God will not allow difficult situations in our lives or He will not prune us when we need discipline.

But it says that our God is a good God who always intends good for us – even if it means that He has to take us through storms in our lives.

RECOGNIZE GOD IS IN CONTROL

In verse 39, we see that Jesus stilled the storm with a word. Jesus accomplished what in the Old Testament only Yahweh could do (e.g., Gen 8:1; Ps 74:13–14; 104:4–9; 107:25–30).

This story assures Mark's readers that in Jesus they have one in whom God was and is at work, one whom the "wind and the waves" do obey, even when it appears that the storms may overwhelm them.

When we are in a storm of difficulties, God may Change the circumstances or Deliver us out of the difficult circumstances or God will walk with us through the storms!!!

If you are going through a storm, don't be afraid. Because Jesus is in the boat – He is in control! If you are going through a financial difficulty, Jesus is in the boat! If you are suffering from sickness – remember, Jesus is in the boat! If you are depressed, cheer up – because Jesus is in the boat!