

Jesus calms the storm

Mark 4

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. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 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?”

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.

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!”

Jesus calms the storm

- Jesus was able to find rest even in the storm
- Jesus was not afraid of the storm
- Jesus had authority over the storm

Finding rest (the cave/desert)

- Taking himself away from distractions
- Intimate with the Father
- Not just 'rest'
- Confronted by Satan
- Temptation (Mark 1:13)

Finding rest (the cave)

“In aloneness everything that we imagine is us (but is not really us) falls away. We come to see that much of what we surround ourselves with is just a facade. We begin to know ourselves. This will almost certainly be uncomfortable at least at first ... But in time it may bring freedom”

Ian Adams: Cave, refectory, road

Finding rest (the cave)

- In stillness we are vulnerable
- It reveals our addiction to noise
- It forces us to confront our reliance on activity
- It is the place where we confront our fears
- Where we realise the antidote to fear is love
- Where we discover we are loved
- We need to do it regularly

Finding rest (in practise)

- Create a simple prayer space – your cave
- Use a candle or even an icon?
- Have a bible permanently there
- Remember we cannot manipulate God but we can enter a cave
- Don't be legalistic – it's just a vehicle

“To realize this is to learn to sit outside of ourselves and begin to see what is going on in our often frantic minds. This quest requires us to be real – to see through our devices, our defences and our manipulations – even through our good points, so that we see ourselves as we really are: part of teeming humanity and yet each of us gloriously unique”

(Ian Adams)

Do not be afraid

- “Why are you scared? Don’t you believe yet?”
- “Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well”
- Jesus’ eyes were fixed on God’s kingdom
- Jesus knew His identity
- Jesus never doubted God’s plan

Authority in the name of Jesus

- After all the parables, this was a very real demonstration of the kingdom of God
- The storm was a very real manifestation of the work of Satan
- The sea symbolises evil powers:
 - Daniel
 - Exodus
 - Jonah
 - Genesis

Greg Boyd (Gen 6:6, Is 63:10, Lk 7:30, Acts 7:51, Eph 4:30, Heb 3:8)

“While scripture emphasizes God’s ultimate authority over the world, it also emphasizes that agents, whom God has created, can and do resist his will. Scripture does not teach that God controls all the behaviour of free agents, whether human or angels. Humans and fallen angels are able to grieve God’s Spirit and to some extent frustrate his purposes. While his general will for world history cannot fail, his particular will for individuals, often does.”

Application

- Make sure we have a 'cave' or 'quiet time'
- Seek first the kingdom of God
- Use the authority you have been given in Jesus' name by praying.

Get in the boat! Do not be afraid!