

## **Calming the Storm**

Scripture: Mark 4:35 – 41

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

In our Gospel reading for today, we have a story of the storm on the sea. It had been a long day for Jesus and his disciples so Jesus decided to get in a boat and sail across the Sea of Galilee for some rest. Jesus laid down in the boat and fell asleep. Jesus was very tired and he quickly fell asleep.

Let me talk to you about the Sea of Galilee – it really is not a sea, it is a big lake, not even as big as our Great Lakes. On the Sea of Galilee, you can always see the shore line no matter where you are on the sea. The boat with the disciples and Jesus got near the center of the sea.

Then all of a sudden a violent storm came upon them. This is not an uncommon occurrence in that part of the world. The storm was so violent that gale force winds came and the waves were breaking over the side of the boat so much that the boat was filling with water. Jesus was in the stern of the boat asleep on a cushion.

The sea quickly changed from a calm and peaceful place to a stormy and violent place. The disciples were afraid! I am sure they tried to bail the boat out but their attempt was not succeeding. The boat continued to fill with water! In the middle of the Sea of Galilee with Jesus asleep they were going to drown!

I can picture the disciples trying to save the boat. I can also see them wondering why Jesus was still asleep. I am sure they were thinking – how can he sleep through this violent storm. Their leader and teacher is sleeping through the storm. Their leader and teacher is going to sleep while they drown. The disciples finally decide to wake Jesus up. In a panic they woke Jesus up and said – ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing? Help us Jesus before we drown.’

I can imagine Jesus waking up with a reassuring smile on his face. Jesus then stood up in the boat and said to the disciples – ‘Easy Boys! I have this!’ Jesus then rebuked the wind and storm and he said to the sea – ‘Hush, be still!’ The wind, storm, and sea then became perfectly calm!

Think of the power that Jesus had and still has. Even the wind, storm, waves, and sea obey Jesus.

After everything is calm again, Jesus turns and ask the disciples – ‘Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?’ The disciples become afraid again because of what they have witnessed and they tell each other this – ‘Who then is Jesus that even the wind and sea obey him?’

Today’s days are trying days. It seems many storms come up suddenly in our lives. We may feel like we are in a boat which is pitching left and right and the boat is taking on water. We often call out to anyone for help to calm the storms of life. Do you call out to Jesus? You may think that Jesus is asleep in your boat of life, but he is not, he is right there in the boat with you! If we come to Jesus in prayer and ask for his help, he will stand up our lives and tell the storms to hush and be calm.

So why are you afraid of the storms of life? Do you still not have faith in Jesus? And why are we afraid of the storms of life? Do we still not have faith in Jesus?

I do not know what storms you are battling in your life, but I know of One who can calm the storm – Jesus Christ. I do not know what waves are crashing against your life boat, but I know One who still the waves – Jesus Christ. I do not know how much water has gotten into your boat of life, but I know the One who will bail you out – Jesus Christ.

I hope each of you know that Jesus had and still has the power to ease the storms of life. And I hope each of you know that and are willing to share that! So when someone comes to you and shares his/her storms and they share their fear, I hope you summon up the strength of Christ and your own compassion to calm that storm.

There are many desperate people in this world. There are many desperate people in this community on the beach. You can calm any storm of life through Jesus Christ.

We can calm any storm of life through Jesus Christ.

Let us now call out to Jesus in prayer:

Almighty God, your Son calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee for his disciples. May each person here at this worship service in person or those watching on YouTube, be calm even if the storms of life are scary because each of us know who is the One who can calm any storm – Jesus Christ.

May each person become a person who can also calm storms of life through their advice, support, wisdom, and compassion like Christ. AMEN.