

TITLE AND NUMBER: 33. Trusting Jesus in the storms of life



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Mark 4:35-40

Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake."

Leaving the crowd behind, the disciples got into the boat in which Jesus was already sitting, and they took him with them. Other boats sailed with them. Suddenly, as they were crossing the lake, a ferocious storm arose, with violent winds and waves that were crashing into the boat until it was nearly swamped. Jesus was calmly sleeping in the stern, resting on a cushion. So they shook him awake, saying, "Teacher, don't you even care that we are all about to die!" Fully awake, he rebuked the storm and shouted to the sea, "Hush! Be still!" All at once the wind stopped howling and the water became perfectly calm. Then he turned to his disciples and said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Haven't you learned to trust yet?"

What does this Bible passage tell us?

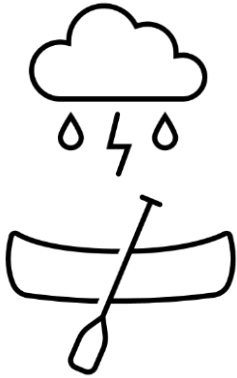
Some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen and so knew how quickly conditions on the water could change. This must have been a huge storm if it worried even those experienced fishermen. Imagine the noise of the wind howling and the violent movement of the boat as each wave came at it, spilling water into the boat each time it did. Yet, we read that Jesus calmly slept through the storm; that is, until the disciples shook Him awake. Then Jesus commanded the wind to stop blowing and had to shout over the noise for the water to be still. Peace reigned once again and Jesus said to them, 'you were afraid because you do not yet understand who I am and have not learned to fully trust in me.'

We all go through different 'storms' in our lives. Storms that threaten to overwhelm and sink us. We might wonder, where is God in all my pain and suffering? Jesus teaches us that all we need do is ask for His help and trust that He will lead us through whatever storm we are facing. Nothing is too big for Him to stop, but we do not need to wait until the last moment before we ask him for help. It might look as if Jesus is sleeping through our trouble but, actually, He is waiting for us to recognise who He is - the Son of God - to know that there is nothing He cannot do when we trust Him enough to put our troubles into His hands. He will help us through them.

Reflections:

- In what areas of life do you respond with fear rather than faith?
- Have you ever gone to God when you experienced a 'storm' in your life? What difference did it make? Try it next time a storm threatens to overwhelm you and see what difference it makes to the way you are able to cope with difficulties.
- Did you notice that Jesus was with the disciples throughout the storm? He is with you in your storms, too. Sometimes He will stop your storm completely but at other times He will be with you through the storm and it will make you stronger. If there are areas of your life that you need Jesus to speak life and peace into, why not pray to Him now. Trust that He is with you, He is listening and He will help you.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

