

Book of Mark series
Who Is This Man?
Mark 4:35-41
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
S.C. Brown, Pastor

What is your greatest fear?

There are all kinds of things that people are afraid of; a lot of “phobias”. There is **Glossophobia**, the fear of speaking in public. There is **Acrophobia**, the fear of heights. Or **Claustrophobia**, the fear of tight spaces. Maybe yours is **Aqua-phobia**, the fear of water. Our dog has **Astraphobia**, the fear of thunderstorms. Actually, our dog has just about all of them. Maybe the most common fear today is **Xenophobia**, the fear of foreigners or people who are strange or different.

The disciples surely had this, as we will see.

Turn in your Bible to Mark 4. We will take a look at verses 35-41.

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they

woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?”

It is easy in this familiar story to jump quickly to what we can get out of it.

It's easy to think that the disciples are the main characters; we are the main characters... and that Jesus is the best supporting actor.

This story is about Jesus! There's something about HIM that we need to see in this story.

“Who is this man?”

I. First, we need to see that **Jesus has a sovereign will.**

“Let us go across to the other side.”

It was Jesus' idea to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, in the evening.

It was he who suggested it.

Though there is no electricity and it would be hard to see and quite scary at night, the Sea of Galilee is more calm at night.

Most of the storms happen in the daytime. Fishing was done at night, too.

So, it is Jesus' desire to go to the other side of the lake.

Is it NOT going to happen?

Can his plans and will be prevented?

Jesus is in complete control.

He desires to go to the other side and he **WILL** go to the other side.

He knows a storm is coming.

He leads them into the storm.

He God the Son or God the Father SENT the storm.

II. Secondly, **Jesus has sovereign power:**

A Great windstorm:

“37 And a **great windstorm** arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.”

In this passage, we have the word GREAT pop up 3 times.

A Great windstorm.

A Great calm.

Great fear.

First...a great windstorm.

We need to remember that most of the disciples had grown up on the water.

Four of them for sure were professional fisherman.

They had seen storms before, lots of them.

But this storm seems to be unique.

It happens at evening, which is unexpected.

It is a GREAT storm.

The Greek wording is 'hurricane-like'.

Matthew, in his telling of this story says the storm was 'seismic'...earthquake like.

Water was getting in the boat. The waves were high. Even the professionals were scared.

*But the Carpenter from Nazareth was asleep...on a cushion in the back of the boat. Sleeping like a baby.

In this we see Jesus' humanity and his divinity. He was fully human and was exhausted. He needed to sleep. Oh, how sweet the sleep of Jesus must have been. To sleep with no worries. But he isn't nervous. He's divine.

So, they wake him up.

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

The language of this phrase leans toward *rebuke*. They are saying, "We're going down and you're doing nothing!"

A Great calm:

“And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a **great calm.**”

Can a *man* make the Red Sea part so that the Hebrews cross on dry land?

Can a *man* bring a storm so great that it floods the earth?

Can a *man* speak to the wind and it obey him?

Can a *man* command a storm to stop?

No mere man. Only the God-man.

- Jesus’ sovereign will is to go to the other side of the lake.
- A GREAT storm arises but by His sovereign power he brings a GREAT calm.

*Now, let’s be honest, don’t you find Jesus’ questions interesting?

“**Why are you so afraid?**”

Answer: “Um, Jesus....we were about to drown. That was a massive storm. We thought we were going to die.”

“**Have you still no faith?**”

Answer: “What were we supposed to do?”

“**But didn’t I say, Let’s go across to the other side?**”

It was **Jesus' sovereign will** to go to the other side. He displays his **sovereign power** by telling the storm and the sea, "Silence." With a word, nature obeys.

III. Thirdly, Jesus is holy.

41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?"

GREAT fear fell upon them.

They were afraid of the storm.
But, they were **MEGA-afraid** of Jesus.

Though the sea and wind decreased, their internal fear **INCREASED!**

They are face to face with **SOVEREIGNTY**.
They are face to face with **POWER**.
They are face to face with **HOLINESS**.

Why do I say Holiness?

They have no category for Jesus. He's alien.
He is something 'OTHER' than **just** a man.
He has power over nature! That's not normal.

You know something like this happened when they first met him.

He's shown them his holiness on the Sea of Galilee before. Perhaps they've forgotten.

Turn in your Bible to Luke 5

5:1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Face to face with holiness at that moment, what was Peter's response?

"Get away from me, for I am a sinful man."

Now again. Great fear in the face of holiness.

What was God trying to teach the disciples in this?
What is there for us to learn?

Does it mean that God is with us in every storm?
Yeah, for sure. But that's not the main point.

The main point is this: Jesus is God. He is powerful and holy and he can do whatever he wants.

Question:

Why did Jesus say to them, “Why are you so cowardly? Why are you so afraid?”

Why did he say to them, “Have you still no faith?”

- Was it because THEY were supposed to rebuke the storm...because THEY had power to do something about it and they were ‘faithless’? Peter or John was supposed to rise up and say, “I rebuke you storm!” That’s what TV preachers would tell you.

Why did they wait so long to wake the Lord?

Why did they wait till the boat was “*filling with water*”?

Surely there was some time between when the storm hit and it was ‘*filling with water*’!

*Because they didn’t believe that he could do anything about the storm!

“Oh, just let him sleep, we’ve been through storms before. We can handle this! He’s a carpenter and a

teacher. This is our skill area. We are fishermen.”
maybe.

But at some point, they were in danger, beyond their
abilities. And they cried out. The great windstorm
became a great calm. And they were greatly afraid,

.....in a very healthy sort of way.

Who is this man?

He’s the HOLY GOD in human flesh.

Believe in him.

Believe in him with all your heart.

Don’t be afraid. Go to him. Quickly.

And you will BEHOLD his glory.

Gospel....slides.

