

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus calms the boisterous sea! What an incredible event! Jesus enters a boat along with His disciples ... they cast out into the Sea of Galilee ... a tremendous storm blows in ... He's their Messiah ... and He's fast asleep on a cushion! Can you imagine the looks they must have given Him? Like ... REALLY, JESUS? I suppose the thoughts were like those we often have in our storms. REALLY, GOD? ARE YOU SERIOUS? I know many people come to church seeking an answer to their messed-up life. Wow! Everything is spinning out of control. I don't know what's happening. Everything is sooooo unsettled! I hope you've learned that it may not be evidence that something's wrong, but may indicate, in fact, that something's actually RIGHT; because following Jesus is NOT SAFE! Your eternal soul is safe, but that's about it. Everything else is an adventure! God is good. God is kind. God is love. God is Gracious. God is merciful. God is King. BUT ... GOD IS NOT SAFE!

THREE *More* OBSERVATIONS THAT REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT FOLLOWING JESUS

Observation #1

When you are following Jesus, sometimes it feels like He is sleeping in the middle of your storm.

Who is overseeing this ill-fated boat ride? Who put these guys in harm's way? Well, I believe He is the one who is asleep in the back of the boat! They are in this storm specifically BECAUSE they are following Jesus, and this is not some little inconvenience. No! This is a storm that is so severe that a boat full of professional fishermen reasonably think that they are going to die. What do you do when you know He is there, but He is not doing anything?

Observation #2

When you are following Jesus, sometimes you wonder if He cares.

The Disciples wake Jesus with the question, "Teacher, don't you care that we are perishing?" Have you ever met a discouraged Christian that said, "I don't even think God cares!" And your immediate thought was ... "What? Hey! Don't say that! You know God always cares!"

Observation #3

When you are following Jesus, your understanding of Him, will routinely, seem new.

This encounter ends with the Disciples asking, "Who then IS THIS, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" It seems as if they are looking at Jesus for the first time.