

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

— Lorton —

Questions

1. What does it tell us about Jesus' intentions that He led the disciples into the storm?
2. What kinds of "storms" in your life tempt you to ask, "Don't you care, Lord?"
3. What "boat" (sources of false refuge) have you been trusting in more than Jesus lately?
4. How does your response to life's chaos reveal where your faith is rooted?
5. What would it look like for you this week to surrender anxiety and receive Christ's peace in a specific area of life?
6. What emotion grips the disciples after the storm is calmed? Why is that surprising?
7. Has your view of Jesus become overly familiar or small? What does this text reveal about His majesty?
8. Of the three revelations—Providence, Power, Presence—which one do you most need to trust more deeply in your current season?

*"I have learned to kiss the wave
that throws me against the Rock of Ages."*
— Charles Spurgeon

*Need prayer? Someone will be up front by the piano
to pray with you after the 1st & 2nd services.*

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Storms: The Classrooms of Grace

Mark 4:35-41

Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor
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Mark 4:35–41 shows us three great revelations about Jesus' lordship in chaos to lead us to know and trust Him more deeply in every storm.

1. The Lord's Providence – A Great Windstorm (vv. 35-38)

The disciples are in the boat—and soon into the storm—not because they disobeyed Jesus, but because they obeyed Him. Obedience doesn't exempt us from suffering.

What we see is, God providentially uses the storms of life as classrooms of grace to lead us to know and trust Him more deeply.

In the Ancient Near East, water was not just a physical element, it also symbolized chaos, danger, and the unknown. The sea was a chaotic force that only the gods could tame—Baal in Canaanite belief and Yahweh for Israel. We see this imagery throughout the Old Testament (Gen 1:2, 6-10; Ps. 89:9; Ps 107:23-30).

"Trials and tribulations, difficulties and desperate moments are when God does His greatest work in our lives. When He brings us to the end of ourselves, we are driven to Him and Him alone..." – Danny Akin

"God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we can trust His heart." – Charles Spurgeon

2. The Lord's Power – A Great Calm (vv. 39-40)

Jesus does not pray for the storm to stop. He commands it to. And at Jesus' command, "there was a *great* calm." "Great" is the same word used in verse 37 to describe the windstorm. Mark is linguistically creating a great contrast: From great chaos to great calm. From engulfing waves to still-as-glass silence. From storm clouds to a peaceful, starry night.

The word "afraid" carries the sense of cowardice. And not just a natural reaction to danger, but a kind of fear that eclipses faith. In chaos, we can live as if what we fear is more powerful than the One we follow.

"Peace doesn't come from controlling your life; it comes from surrendering to the One who does." – Paul David Tripp

3. The Lord's Presence – A Great Terror (v. 41)

41 And they were [greatly] terrified, and asked one another, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

"Greatly" is added because it is in the original Mark wrote. Mark uses the same word [*"great"*] in verses 37 and 39, yet the CSB omits it in 41. Mark clearly repeats it to form a pattern: The disciples were caught in a *great* storm, they witnessed a *great* calm, and now they are gripped by a *great* terror.

Here's a lesson from the classroom of grace: Fear of the Lord casts out fear of lesser things.

"You will either fear the storm or fear the One who is sovereign over it. One fear brings panic, the other brings peace." – Ray Ortlund Jr.