

## **WHEN DISCIPLES DOUBT**

Friday, July 21

Reading: Mark 4:35-41

**Mark 4:39** *He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.*

After a long day of ministry, Jesus and His disciples get into a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. This is a very interesting body of water. It is only 7 miles across and 150 feet deep. But it is also almost 700 feet below sea level. Surrounded by mountains, when the wind blows down onto the lake it can become a virtual wind tunnel causing large waves and dangerous squalls. This storm must have been especially violent. Most of these men were fishermen and had grown up on this lake. Yet as the water from the waves began to fill their boat, they were frightened for their lives. It is a testimony to Jesus' exhaustion that He sleeps through the whole thing.

The disciples shake Jesus awake and question His care for them. After all the compassion and concern they had seen Jesus have for others, the disciple could still doubt that Jesus cared for them! As a man, Jesus was exhausted and sleeping. Now His deity shines through as He rebukes the wind and waves and they instantly obey. The storm did not slowly come to a stop. In a moment, there was complete calm!

After rebuking the storm, Jesus now turns and rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith. Why were they so afraid? Where was their faith? Had they learned nothing from their time with Him? Like the masses that surrounded Jesus, these disciples wanted Him to do something. Jesus simply wanted them to trust Him! The disciples are now more afraid of the power displayed by Jesus than they were by the storm. "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!" The disciples still did not understand that Jesus was more than a human Messiah. He was God come in the flesh! Being with the human compassionate Jesus they could handle. Being with the powerful Son of God was another story!

### **POINTS TO PONDER:**

1. "He Rebuked the Wind and Waves." The same Jesus who called the storm cares for us today. He not only cares about our problems – He is there "in the boat" with us! We can trust that no matter how high the waves may get or how bad the winds may blow, our Savior is with us to strengthen and guide us through. What do you do when the storms of life hit? Are you fearful or faith-full?
2. "Do You Still Have No Faith?" The Lord allows storms in our lives to drive us to trust in Him. The disciples wanted Jesus to take the storm away! Often we feel like this as well. We want the problems of life to disappear when Jesus wants us to trust Him **THROUGH** the storms. Many times Jesus allows the storms to help grow our faith. Unfortunately, we often doubt the Lord's care and try to handle our problems on our own. We forget that Jesus never promised to take all our storms away, but to be there with us through them. We need faith to realize that Jesus is Lord over all the 'storms' and 'calms' of our lives. What storms are you facing in your life? Are you trusting Christ to guide you through it? Do you have faith in God's love and control no matter how bad things may get?