

Calm in the Storm

Message by Pastor Clay, The Naz

September 14th, 2025

[Link to Sunday Service](#)

Summary

In this message, Pastor Clay addresses the weight of recent tragedies in America and the question of where our hope truly lies. Using the story from Mark 4:35-41 where Jesus calms the storm, Clay contrasts placing hope in circumstances versus placing hope in Christ. The sermon emphasizes that following Jesus doesn't mean avoiding storms in life, but rather having confidence in God's sovereignty even amid uncertainty and chaos.

Jesus is always in control and always cares, even when it seems that he's absent. Our citizenship is in heaven, not in this world, and death for believers is "gain" because it brings us into Christ's presence. Therefore, choose to surrender to Jesus' lordship and to rest in his providence, power, and peace, knowing that the final victory is already secured.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss these powerful truths about where our hope lies, we ask that You would quiet the storms in our hearts. Help us to be honest with ourselves about what we truly place our trust in. Open our hearts to hear Your voice saying, 'Be still.' Guide our conversation today, Lord, and help each person here to encounter You in a fresh way. May we leave this discussion with our hope firmly anchored in Christ rather than our circumstances. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker (Optional)

What's something small that brought you joy or peace this past week, despite everything happening in the world?

Key Verses

Mark 4:35-41

Psalm 46:10

Philippians 1:21

Romans 10:9-10

1 Corinthians 15:58

Questions

1. Storms tend to reveal the real us. How have difficult times in your life revealed what you truly believe about God? (Mark 4:38)
2. When have you experienced a time when it felt like Jesus was “sleeping” during your storm? How did you respond? (Mark 4:38)
3. How would you answer Jesus if he asked you directly, “Why are you so afraid?” regarding your current worries? (Mark 4:40; Psalm 46:10)
4. The sermon contrasted being in Jesus' boat versus our own boat. What does it practically look like to let Jesus be the captain of your life?
5. How does the reality that “this world is not our home” change how you view current events and personal struggles? (Phil. 1:21)
6. How does knowing the end of the story affect how you live today? (Rev. 19:11-16)
7. What areas of your life do you find it hardest to trust God's sovereignty over?
8. How can we as believers maintain peace while still engaging meaningfully with the brokenness around us?

Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been placing your hope in circumstances rather than in Christ. Each day, spend five minutes in prayer specifically surrendering this area to Jesus. When you feel anxiety or fear rising about this situation, practice speaking aloud, "Be still" (Psalm 46:10) as a reminder of Christ's authority over your storms. Additionally, reach out to someone who may be going through their own storm and share an encouraging word or Scripture that points to the hope we have in Christ.

Key Takeaways

- You can follow Jesus and still encounter storms in life - His presence doesn't guarantee absence of problems but provides peace within them. (John 16:33)
- Jesus is always in control and always cares, even when it seems He is distant or unaware of our struggles.
- Our hope must be anchored in Christ rather than in circumstances, as only He provides substance that won't fade or give way.
- As believers, our citizenship is in heaven - this world is not our ultimate home, and death is merely a doorway to resurrection life.
- The final victory is already secured in Christ - we know the end of the story, which gives us confidence to face today's battles.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you are not surprised or threatened by the storms in our world or in our individual lives. Thank you for being with us in the boat, even when we question your care for us. Forgive us for placing our hope in things that cannot sustain us. Help us to transfer our trust from our circumstances to you, our unchanging Savior. Give us courage to live boldly as citizens of heaven while we navigate the waters of this temporary world. May we be people who point others to the hope that is found only in you, especially when the storms are raging. We rest in the assurance that you have already secured the final victory, and we look forward to the day when you return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In your mighty name we pray, amen.