

Coach House Church BEACONS

1ST APRIL 2020

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Hello everyone, I hope we're all keeping safe. In times like this, when circumstances seem to be snuffing out our joy in life, I want to talk about the story of how Jesus Calms the Storm.

This passage shows up three times in the Bible, appearing in Matthew, Mark and Luke. We will be looking at the passage in Mark, and exploring a few key points that are brought up as we go along.

Mark Chapter 4, verses 34 to 41.

35 That day when evening came, he said to His disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

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.

40 He said to His disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

This is a very short passage, so there is no need for a full summary. However, the theme here may be difficult to grasp without context.

In the earlier part of Mark Chapter 4, just before this passage, Jesus was teaching His parables to the multitude from a boat by the Sea of Galilee. What people need to remember is that he was in the middle of teaching parables linked to faith. There is a consistent theme in Jesus' stories to the crowd, from the parable of the sower, a lamp on a stand, the growing seed, to the

parable of the mustard seed. In these parables, Jesus is speaking of a faith that grows, from nothing impressive to something worthy of being noticed and harvested.

This theme continues when Jesus breaks off from the crowd. He stays on the boat, and leaves the crowd behind as he and His disciples sailed across the lake.

When Jesus said, "Let us go over to the other side," he makes a statement to His disciples. He did not say, "Let us go off and drown in the middle of the Sea of Galilee." He said that they would cross over to the other side. And the disciples followed this intent. They followed after Jesus, bringing other boats with them.

"Let us go over to the other side,"

As the boats began to cross the lake, Jesus rested. While he rested, a sudden, violent storm broke over the lake. Several disciples, who were fishermen, panicked. These were people who were familiar with the weather conditions around the lake and could recognise the very real danger they were facing. None of this was a fear-induced illusion. The storm was real, the boats were real, and the dangerous waters beneath those very boats were real. They could die.

In all this, Jesus slept until His disciples woke him up. The disciples protested at His apparent indifference, just like all of us, whenever we cry out against God's apparent sleeping indifference in the face of our own difficulties.

And Jesus got up and rebuked the storm, and subdued it with a few words. The winds died down, and the disciples were saved.

Jesus asked, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

The dangers of a storm in a small boat are real. The fear that comes out of it is also very real. But even if we are afraid, we do not have to allow fear to consume or paralyze us.

"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

No, what Jesus is asking here, is why don't we choose to trust in His promises to cross the lake? He never promised a danger free journey, but he promised to be with us, to care for us, and to deliver us, even when the storms of life threaten to destroy us.

"Do you still have no faith?" the Messiah asks, and he asks this to those who ate with him and walked beside him for many years.

Today, for those who say they know Jesus, we also know of His real influence in our lives. We face real dangers today, and an illusion made up from our minds cannot combat that.

As Christians, we believe in someone who walks beside us, strengthens us, and cherishes us every moment of the day, even when it feels like he's sleeping and ignoring our cries for help.

It may sound crazy, but the theme here is simple.

That those who know Jesus know of His power and glory. We have to know of His authority over the storms and imminent dangers of our lives, and we still need to make a choice to have faith. Fear comes naturally, but this story shows that we don't have to be paralysed by that fear. We can have faith. Faith to keep going through this storm, faith to keep rowing despite our fears and pains, faith to honour and trust in the One who cherishes us, and faith to finally cross this lake.

That is the story of Jesus calming the storm. Amen.



Daniel Lam



Coach House Church

leadership@coachhousechurch.org // 0161 432 5604

the coach house church, 222 wellington road north, stockport sk4 2qn