

MARK 4:35-41 WHO IS THIS? JESUS IN THE BOAT.

Intro:

Read 4:33-41

- The geographical layout of the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan Valley, and MT. Hermon.
- The Sea of Galilee, also known as the Sea of Tiberius, lays in the Jordan valley which is all part of the Great Rift Valley which runs about 4500 miles from Syria through the Red Sea, then down the East coast of Africa to Mozambique.
- The steep hills and cliffs that encompass the Sea of Galilee make it vulnerable to sudden high winds which cause violent storms as cooler air drops down for the snowcapped heights of Hermon and collide with the warm air in the basin of the lake.
- The lake is 13 miles long, 7 miles wide. Its surface is 690 below sea level, the lowest fresh water body of water in the world, and 360 ft. deep.
- It is fed by a few springs but mostly by the Jordan river which runs north to south with its source being mount Hermon which is 9232 above sea level and Jordan terminates at the Dead Sea which is 1400 ft. below sea level. Its water are basically known as pristine.
- Perhaps nowhere else in the scripture is the humanity and divinity of Jesus so displayed as it is seen here.
- Exhausted, sleeping in the bottom of a boat while a severe storm beats on their helpless vessel and this contrasted with His rising u,p and with but a word, taking dominion over the storm, the wind, the waves. All nature is at His command.

VS 35

- The same day as the parables.

VS 36

- They took Him as He was. Hungry, tired ill clothed for the weather, exhausted.
- He takes us as we are, then, privileges us to be called the children of God and works to conform us into His own image.

VS 37

- Thought these men were sailors the fierceness of the storm gripped their soul and filled them with fear for their lives.
- Compare Mt. 8 and Luke 8?

VS 38

- He was so exhausted He slept right through the howling wind, the tossing of the boat, and the crashing of the waves coming in upon them.
- In fear the disciples cry out to Him, is their cry a rebuke or a prayer? I think it was both.
- We also are exposed to the sudden storms of life.
- All seems to be sailing smooth, then suddenly a storm of cares, a storm of griefs, a storm of temptation, a storm of calamity and disaster and storms of disappointments.
- And then we pray and yet it seems Christ is asleep, there is no apparent answer. He is in your boat, but there is no deliverance, no letup of the pressure.
- It is then we have the opportunity to discover and learn that "tribulation works, it works patience and perseverance, and perseverance works character and character hope, and hope that does not disappoint.
- Blessed is any storm that sends to Jesus on our knees.
 - James 1:2, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,
 - **1 Ptr. 1:6-9;**
- Oh how the soul grows in adversity, trials and tribulations. Trials are the perfect soil and condition for maturity and growth.
- Their faith was little, but faith they did have or they would not have tried to wake Him for rescue and aid.
- They call out to Him as "teacher" in Mt. Lord, in Lk. Master, Master.
- Their complaint seemed to be from a false impression that Jesus had a lack of concern for them. "don't you care." We are going to perish.
 - "We" being all inclusive thus includes Christ Himself.
- It is not necessarily clear whether they were even requesting deliverance or just protesting His indifference to their trial.
- Perhaps this was part of the reason for His remark how is it you have such little faith, and Mt. 8:26, O you of little faith, or Lk. 8:25, Where is your faith?
- Perhaps He had waited for them to exhaust their strength, and their trust in their own skills, resources and knowledge of sailing before He would intervene. They must come to the end, they must cry out to Him.
- Man's extremity is God's opportunity.

VS 39

- The howling winds did not wake Him, the movement of the boat or the cold rush of the waves crashing into the boat did not wake Him, but His disciples cry wake Him.
- Though their request was rough, accusing and anxious, Jesus rises and answers their prayer.
- Jesus rebukes the wind and the sea.
 - Rebuke is a very strong word, took absolute control and muzzled the waves. (Rebuke, see 1:25)

VS 40

- **Though it was night, the wind howling, waves and sea roaring and crashing into the boat and the lake so deep, yet Jesus asks, "why are you fearful."**
- **Jesus asks, "why are you so fearful, why have you no faith?" What men could understand and what made sense to men Christ could not understand.**
- **This was a mystery to Christ. Why doubt the love and care, the sovereignty and power of your heavenly Father. God will not abandon His children.**
- **Jn. 13:1 "having loved His own, He loved them unto the end."**
- **Perhaps Jesus answers His own question, "why are you so fearful" then follows up with the answer, "you have not faith."**
- **We feel with them, the sea is so vast and my boat is so small, but our God is so big!**
- **It is either faith or fear for us. We must know our Jesus, live with Him in and through all the storms and calms of our lives.**
- **Then shall we discover and learn that tribulation works...**
- **If they would have had more faith they would have had less fear. Faith is knowing the blessed, faithful character of Jesus.**
- **The waves were crashing into and filling the boat, but they were not getting into the soul of Christ.**
- **They had gotten into the souls of the disciples just as the waves and wind had gotten into the soul of Peter when at Jesus command he stepped out of the boat and walked on the waters.**
- **Peter began to sink into the waters when he let the storm get into his soul, agitating it . (Mt. 14)**
- **The disciples looked at the circumstances and left God out of the equation, but faith looks at God and leaves the circumstances out of the equation.**

VS 41

- **Here now a new fear comes over them.**
- **A moment ago they exceedingly feared for their lives but this tormenting fear was displaced by an awe and reverent fear of the presence of god. This holy fear replaced the fear of the storm and death.**
- **Who then can this be? They had by this time spent about a year with Jesus, eating, traveling, ministering, sleeping and living together, all His great ministry they saw and witnessed, but they had not seen or experienced anything like this. Who can this be?**
- **It is interesting to note that later on when Jesus came walking to them on the waves, (Mt. 14:33) they wonder Who He is, but they discover and declare, "You are the Son of God."**
- **Also Mt. 16:16 Who do you say that I Am, "thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God."**

- **When Jesus took command and there was calm and not looming tragedy they are filled with awe and wonder. A fear of the Almighty.**
- **They begin to get a revelation of Who it is that they are joined to. He is Lord of the storms.**
- **Even the waves and winds bow prostrate before Him.**
- **This godly fear was beginning to reveal to them the truth of the Master, "in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" He truly is the God-Man.**
- **Fear, awe, reverence is the proper reaction of man when they realize they are in the presence of the Holy God.**
 - **Abraham; Gen. 18:27, Moses at the burning bush, Job, 42:5, 6, Manoah, Jud. 13:22, Isaiah, 6:5, Ezek. 1:28, Dan. 10:9, Peter in Lk. 5:8, Paul in Acts 6:4, and John in Rev. 1:17**
- **Tribulation revealed this to them. How poor they were, how rich they are becoming.**

CONCLUSION:

- **PS. 107:21-29**
 - **Don't let the storm into my soul.**
 - **Can I be calm, still in the midst of the storms of my life, do I have Jesus in my vessel?**
 - **We are far safer in the middle of a ragging storm with God than in a calm without Him.**
 - **Keep Jesus in your boat.**
1. **He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;
To added afflictions He addeth His mercy,
To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.**
 2. **When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources
Our Father's full giving is only begun.**
 3. **Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.**
 4. **His love has no limits, His grace has no measure,
His power no boundary known unto men;
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.**