



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Saved from the Storm

TIM PAULEY

MARK 4:35-41

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Most of us certainly remember the Derecho wind storm on June 29, 2012. My family was tent camping at Lake Sherwood near White Sulphur Springs. It was one of the most fearful ordeals our family has ever experienced. As we huddled in my brother in law's camper we were frightened, however we had no idea how serious the storm actually was until the next morning. After seeing all the fallen trees and storm damage we were thankful that no one in the campground was injured.

The severity of that storm gives us hint of what the storm Jesus' disciples faced in the account given us in Mark 4:35-41:

³⁵ On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side."³⁶ Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. ³⁷ And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. ³⁸ Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. ⁴⁰ And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Though several of the disciples were fisherman and experienced boatmen, this storm was serious enough that they feared for their lives. Jesus took this opportunity to perform a powerful miracle to prove He was God and to teach His disciples an important lesson about fear and faith. Let us too learn this lesson and see how it might apply to us in our daily lives and service here in the capitol.

As we have studied events and accounts in the life of Christ we have taken note of what Jonathan Edwards called the "diverse excellencies" found in Him. These are the

contrasting, seeming contradictory qualities demonstrated in the One who is both God and man. Nowhere are these diverse qualities expressed more vividly than in this account. The man Jesus was tired, asleep in the back of the boat. Yet as God He got up and spoke, and the wind and the sea obeyed Him.

THE MIRACLE PROVED HE WAS THE SON OF GOD

Jesus performed many miracles before the disciples and the crowds. These were done to prove that He was indeed who He said He was – the Son of God and the Savior of the world. In Matthew 9:6 We see Jesus healing a paralyzed man to prove He was God and He had the authority to forgive sin, "...So that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sin – then He said to the paralytic, 'Get up pick up your bed and go home'. And he got up and went home." In response the crowds were awestruck and glorified God. In calming of the sea, we see a miracle that proved beyond all doubt He was God and that He had power over nature.

It is always fascinating to see how the Old Testament points to Jesus Christ and is fulfilled by Him in the New. Just take a look at these passages:

*¹God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;³ Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. **Psalm 46:1-3***

*⁸O LORD God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. ⁹You rule the swelling of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them. **Psalm 89:8-9***

²³Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on great waters;

²⁴They have seen the works of the Lord, And His wonders in the deep.

²⁵For He spoke and raised up a stormy wind,

BIBLE STUDIES

CAPITOL BIBLE STUDIES: **THURSDAYS 8:00 AM; 12:00 NOON** TREASURER'S CONFERENCE ROOM (EB 54)

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Which lifted up the waves of the sea.

²⁶They rose up to the heavens, they went down to the depths; their soul melted away in their misery.

²⁷They reeled and staggered like a drunken man, And were at their wits' end.

²⁸Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, And He brought them out of their distresses.

²⁹He caused the storm to be still, So that the waves of the sea were hushed.

³⁰Then they were glad because they were quiet, So He guided them to their desired haven.

³¹Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men!

³²Let them extol Him also in the congregation of the people, and praise Him at the seat of the elders. **Psalm 107:23-31**

After the miracle the disciples asked regarding Jesus, “**Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?**” Later they surely thought of these Psalms as they understood Jesus was the same God they written about so long ago. As they came to understand it Jesus was the God who could command the wind and waves, they learned He was the God whom they could trust to care for them.

A LESSON ON FEAR AND FAITH

This awesome miracle was not done only to prove Jesus was God. He also wanted to teach the disciples an important lesson regarding their fear and faith. Their need for this lesson is clearly expressed by their question, “**Do You Not Care that we are perishing?**” This is an astounding question. If the disciples truly understood who Jesus was, they would never have asked that question. After the miracle, Jesus presses home the lesson by two questions of His own, “**Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?**” It was still early on in His time with Him. They had seen some miracles and He had taught them about who He was, but they did not yet understand. They did not realize He loved them and wanted to save and care for them. They did not recognize He was able to save them as well. As they grew in faith in who Christ was and what He would do for them, then they learned they did not need to be afraid of the storm around them.

THE LESSON FOR US

Jesus performed this miracle to prove to the disciples He was God and to help increase their faith in Him. The

account was written down so we might gain the same benefit.

THE STORMS WE FACE – Most messages and lessons on this passage point out the storms and trials each of us face in our daily lives. (Perhaps the last couple of weeks of the regular session can certainly be compared to a storm!) If Jesus is able to quiet the wind and calm the sea, then He is able to deal with the storms in the lives of His children. The best expression of this might be found in Paul’s encouraging words to the believers in Philippi:

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:6**

THE GREATEST STORM – The greatest storm each of us must face is that of sin and death. Because of our sin we must fear the fury of the storm of God’s judgment and wrath. (Jeremiah 23:19-20) Because of our sin each of us must fear death and what follows. Jesus endured the full fury of the storm of God’s righteous judgment when He suffered and died on the cross. This is what John meant when he wrote that God “**...loved us and sent His Son to the propitiation for our sins**” (1 John 4:10). Propitiation simply means an appeasing, satisfying, or turning away of God’s wrath and anger. Because Jesus endured the punishment for us, He can say “Hush, be still” when it comes to the storm of God’s wrath upon us. Death is the most fearful experience we face. Yet because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we no longer have to fear death and look forward to eternal life (1 Corinthians 15:50-58).

RESPONDING IN FAITH –

- **HAVE YOU REPENTED FROM SIN AND TRUSTED THE ONE WHO ENDURED THE STORM OF GOD’S WRATH ON YOUR BEHALF?**
- **AS A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST DO YOU TRUST THAT HE IS ALWAYS WITH YOU, HE LOVES YOU, AND HE IS ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE STORMS IN YOUR LIFE?**

¹ You can find parallel accounts of this event in Matthew 8:23-27 and Luke 8:22-25.