

Theme: Jesus' Sovereignty over the storm reveals His Deity and invites His disciples to turn from the fear of circumstances to the fear of God and trust in His Sovereign care.

## I. The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald

- A. Popular song in 1976 - long (6:30!) and haunting
- B. A furious squall blew in and the huge ship sank
- C. First time I understood the danger of the Great Lakes
- D. Something similar in our story today

## II. A New Section of the Gospel

- A. We now move from Jesus' teaching to His miracles
  - 1. Mark 4:1-34 is the longest section of Jesus' teaching - all in parables
  - 2. Mark 4:35-5:43 recounts several miracle stories
  - 3. In the parables, the glory of Jesus is understood to be hidden - like a lamp under a basket or as a small insignificant seed
  - 4. In these stories, we will see the power of Jesus unleashed and His glory revealed
  - 5. The key question pressed on readers
    - They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Mark 4:41
    - a. This is the first story but it sets the table
    - b. This is a key theme for the whole Gospel
- B. The personal memory of Peter
  - 1. Mark records more details than Matthew or Luke
    - a. The time of day (evening)

- b. Jesus was already in the boat (teaching)
  - c. Other boats were with them initially
  - d. Jesus "in the stern" sleeps "on a cushion"
  - e. The disciples' language is much stronger here
- 2. All of this makes it likely that this is the personal memories of Peter - we will join him on this journey

## III. Crossing the Sea of Galilee

- A. An evening/nighttime trip across the lake
  - That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."<sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. Mark 4:35-36
  - 1. The end of a day of teaching in parables
  - 2. Jesus was already in the boat
    - Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that **he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake**, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge...<sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, **just as he was, in the boat**. There were also other boats with him. Mark 4:1, 36
  - 3. They are probably going to preach the Gospel there
- B. A furious squall comes on the boat
  - A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Mark 4:37
  - 1. The Sea of Galilee is prone to sudden squalls
  - 2. Surrounded by mountains, so that cold air comes down and meets warm air

3. These are worst in the afternoon so much fishing and travel was done in the evening and at night.
4. A 1986 discovery of Galilean fishing vessel (photo)
  - a. 26.5 ft long by 7.5 feet wide by 4.5 feet high
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup>-century mosaic of a boat in Migdal (1 mile from the discovery site) shows a very similar design
  - c. Carbon 14 dates it to this period
  - d. Not a very big boat for such a furious storm!
5. This is not a very big boat for such a furious storm!
6. The waves are coming over the side and the boat is in danger of sinking!

#### C. Two very different reactions!

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?" Mark 4:38

1. Jesus is asleep!
  - a. The only time we are specifically told Jesus slept
  - b. He is probably tired - but much more is happening!
  - c. He is like the farmer who sleeps because He knows God is in control and will accomplish His purposes! (Mark 4:27)
  - d. Jesus knows Who He is, and His appointed end - the Cross, not drowning in a squall on the sea!
  - e. Jesus sleeps because He trusts the Sovereign Father!
 

I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. Psalm 4:8

#### 2. The seasoned seamen panic!

- a. They knew the water - and that they were in trouble!
  - b. In their panic they wake Jesus - maybe He can help
3. The disciples accusing words to Jesus
    - a. Matthew and Luke soften the words - not Peter/Mark
    - b. "Don't you care if we drown?"
    - c. If You cared You would not have let us get in this mess!
    - d. We are in grave danger - and You are asleep!
    - e. They do not see His sleep as a sign of trust in God but lack of concern for their fate
    - f. There is a bit of irony here in accusing Jesus of sleeping in their moment of need - when they will sleep in His moment of need in Gethsemane
  4. What will Jesus do? How can He help these seasoned seamen?

## IV. Jesus - Lord Over the Storm

### A. Jesus rebukes the storm!

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

1. Strange words - rebuked and spoke to the storm
2. He spoke these words in the first demonic encounter!

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Mark 4:39 ESV

But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" Mark 1:25 ESV

- a. Rebuked - ἐπιτιμῶ - 2 previous times to a demon
  - b. Be still & be silent - φημῶ - only 2x in Mark
3. The words Jesus uses are words He used when confronting Satanic powers and agents!
  4. This may have been a Satanically inspired storm - or just a manifestation of the chaos of water in the ancient world
  5. Either way, Jesus conquers the storm with a word!
  6. Jesus is the Divine Lord Over the Storm!  
You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them. Psalm 89:9

Others went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. <sup>24</sup> They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep. <sup>25</sup> For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves. <sup>26</sup> They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. <sup>27</sup> They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits' end. <sup>28</sup> Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. <sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. <sup>30</sup> They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven. <sup>31</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. <sup>32</sup> Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders. Psalm 107:23–32

- a. In the Old Testament, only Yahweh stills the storm
- b. Mark 4 reads like Psalm 107 re-enacted!

## B. Jesus' penetrating question

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Mark 4:40

1. Why are you afraid - don't you have faith?
2. How can you be afraid when I am with you?
3. Don't you understand Who I am?
4. Are you still lacking faith and understanding?

## C. The disciples' penetrating question

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Mark 4:41

1. The disciples are terrified (lit. 'feared a great fear')
2. They were afraid of the storm - now they have the fear of the Lord!
3. This is the key question - Who is this?
4. The disciples have some understanding of Jesus and have been given some insight into the Kingdom - but there is still so much they do not understand!

## V. Applying the Word

### A. Is there any area where I am responding in fear?

1. The disciples responded to the storm with great fear
2. Not an irrational fear! They assessed risk correctly!
3. Yet Jesus rebuked them for their fear!
4. This is because their fear of the storm was greater than their fear of the Lord and trust in Him!
5. This is common in the lives of God's people (Elijah)
6. This can cause us to accuse rather than trust God

7. Is there any area like this in my life right now?
  - a. Physical health?
  - b. Issues at work?
  - c. Financial?
  - d. Relational?
  - e. Reputation?
8. Jesus identifies our fear as a lack of faith
9. Fear arises when our problems become big in our eyes while God is small
10. Where is the Spirit calling me to confess my fear?
11. Where is the Spirit calling me to grow in my faith?

#### B. The Table

1. Here we are reminded of God's love for us!
2. Here by the Spirit, we experience God's love for us!
3. Romans 8:31-39 reading

### Lord Over the Storm

Mark 4:45-41  
 April 30, 2023  
 Communion  
 Isaiah 43:1-3

Teaching keywords: Christology; Jesus; Deity of Christ; faith; fear; fear of God; miraculous gifts and signs

But now, this is what the Lord says — he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. <sup>2</sup>When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. <sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Isaiah 43:1–3

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. <sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. <sup>38</sup> 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?” <sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” <sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!” Mark 4:35–41