

The Eye of the Storm

Pastor Jeremy Peters

Mark 4:35-41 NLT

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

Key Question:

Who is this man?

THE KINGDOM IN ACTION

March
3
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Key Question: *Who is this man?*

Incomparable Power

Unsurpassable Love

Unexpected Identification

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Eye of the Storm

Mark 4:35-41

- 1) What from this passage and Sunday morning's teaching stood out to you?
- 2) At the beginning of the message, Pastor Jeremy talked about the 'Golden Triangle' of Christian spiritual formation. What are the three aspects or 'sides of the triangle' that he talked about and how have you seen and experienced them in your own life?

As it relates to the role we play (in particular with regard to spiritual disciplines), in order to keep from falling prey to a burdensome legalism, Pastor Jeremy suggested that we use the following as a guiding question: *"What does it look like for me to express my love for Jesus as I... relate to my family, engage in my work every day, build relationship with my neighbours"...*and so on. How might looking at the practice of spiritual disciplines through this lens bring freedom, even as you pursue 'making every effort?' Take some time to share with one another what loving Jesus in these different areas of your life looks like for you and how you can grow to engage Him more deeply in these areas.

- 3) On Sunday Pastor Jeremy spoke about the power of Jesus to "calm the storm" as seen in the wind and the waves immediately becoming still.
 - a) Have you ever experienced Jesus intervening in a "storm" in your life in such an obvious way?
 - b) What about when you are experiencing a "storm" that is not quickly dealt with? How might we experience the incomparable power of Jesus when the storm continues to rage on?

- 4) Jeremy suggested that one of the most common questions human beings have of God, all throughout human history, was the question the disciples posed to Jesus in the boat: "Don't you care if we drown?" He suggested that our assumption that "if God really loved us, He wouldn't allow us to go through storms" is wrong, that God can still love us *and* allow us to go through storms.

- a) Do you equate struggling with God over a storm in your life as ultimately a question about whether or not God loves you? Do you believe it is possible to be so rooted in God's love and acceptance of us, that we can experience storms without questioning that God's purposes are to *"prosper us and not to harm us, to give us a future and a hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11)?
- a) Discuss this quote by John Eldredge: *"When it comes to crises or events that really upset us, this I have learned: you can have God or you can have understanding. Sometimes you can have both. But if you insist on understanding, it often doesn't come. And that can create distance between you and God, because you're upset and demanding an explanation in order to move on, but the explanation isn't coming, and so you withdraw a bit from God and lose the grace that God is giving. He doesn't explain everything. But He always offers Himself."*

Do you agree? Disagree? Have you ever found this to be true?

- 5) Pastor Nathan, in leading us in communion, painted a compelling picture of how Jesus is able to identify with us in our storms, because He endured and suffered through the ultimate storm – that of being separated from God, taking on our sin through His death on the cross. What does this mean to you as you experience your own storms? How does this speak to His unsurpassable love for us?
- 6) Spend some time praying for one another in regards to the storms that you are facing. Ask Jesus to reveal to you where He is in your storm and how He desires to love you both in and through it. Ask Jesus to apply the truth that He completely identifies with us in our storms deeply to our hearts bringing both healing and hope.