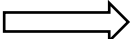


Jesus calms the storm

Week of 23rd June 2024

Have you ever been caught in a storm at sea?
How did it make you feel? Did you call on God
for help?

Read Mark 4:35-41

- How does the passage affect your understanding of who God is?
Does it impact the way you might respond to difficult seasons in life?
- Jesus' disciples were experienced fishermen and accustomed to storms on the Sea of Galilee. What was it about this storm that made them fear for their lives?
- How do you think you might react if it seems that God is sleeping, and ignoring a situation that has swamped you and is threatening to 'drown' you?
- Why were the disciples 'terrified', even after Jesus calmed the storm? What does their behaviour reveal about their apparent lack of trust in Jesus? (v40-41).
Are there areas of your life where you might be tempted to respond with fear rather than faith?
- Is there evidence in the passage that Jesus meant to enter this storm as a test of the disciples' faith?
- Scripture doesn't promise that Jesus will calm every storm in our lives. What is the key message of this passage?
Compare with Psalm 107:23-31. What can we learn from the similarities and the differences between the two stories?
- After their brush with death, Jesus doesn't comfort his disciples, but rather scolds them. (v40). Why is He so hard on them?
- Share together your reflections on the passage from Eddie Askew. 



The Storm on the Sea of Galilee - Rembrandt 1633

Lord, I've felt alone
so many times.
Bruised black and blue by life.
The tiles blown off the roof
of my self-confidence
by the storm.
The cold rain of doubt poured in,
flooding my faith.

I've cried to you
in desperation and uncertainty
and no-one's answered.
I've thought you were asleep,
or far away, or even worse
that you'd abandoned me.
I'm sorry, Lord
but in the gathering darkness
of my fears
clouds blackening my horizon
can so quickly blind me
to your presence.

The one thing I hang on to
each time the storm clouds gather,
is that you've graced my life
with mercy in the past
and so will come again to do the same.
Even there I've got it wrong.
How can you come again
when you're already here
whatever doubt may tempt me to
assume?

Lord, help me face the wind
and wait.
I know you'll show yourself
and still my storm
just when I need you most.

From: 'Unexpected Journeys' by Eddie Askew