
INTRO:

The title of my message today is, "The Calm in the Chaos," from Mark chapter 4. Today, we'll be talking about the wind and the waves. The storms of life. And how to navigate them safely.

This is (probably) a familiar passage already... but I think it's one that should serve as a continual reminder for the person who desires to follow Jesus.

In Mark chapter 4 – starting in verse 35 – Jesus invites His disciples – *His followers* – to join Him for a journey. But the journey wasn't really a pleasant one – as we're about to see. See – it's the unexpected events in life that really get to us. We can plan and plan and have emergency backup plans – but are we ever really prepared for the woes of life? For the storms that take place unexpectedly.

Living here in Georgia, you should all know by now that it doesn't matter WHAT the radar shows – or WHAT the local forecast is calling for.

Watching the weather forecast is like watching the Atlanta Falcons play football – you can never really count on it, can you?

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Let's read our text this morning, and then we'll pray and dive right in. **Starting in verse 35, we're told:**

³⁵ On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." ³⁶ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸ But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹ And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Notice – in verse 35 – we're told this happened "*on the same day*". We're not going to get into all the things that happened on this same day, but just for context --- Jesus has had a long, hard day. Hence – He falls asleep in just a few minutes! See – Jesus is showing His humanity in this moment – right before He shows us His deity. I think this is key (even for us today) --- Jesus was fully HUMAN – and yet fully GOD all at the same time. The reason this is so important for us

remember – is because Jesus was in just as much danger as the disciples were! Jesus could have reacted the same way. He could have cried out to God, saying, “Father! Where are You!? Save us! We’re perishing!” See – Jesus had the capability of the same emotions they experienced. And yet (here) – He chooses to RELATE to our troubles – as humans. ***The truths we’ll see today – are just as important to each of US – sitting here in this room*** – as they were to the disciples in this boat here in Mark chapter 4.

He tells them, “*Let us cross over to the other side.*” Notice – He didn’t say, “*Hey, let’s hope for the best.*” He didn’t say, “*Guys – it’s going to get dangerous. You better strap in and say a prayer!*” He didn’t say, “*Let’s venture out into this water and just ‘see’ what happens!*” No – Jesus told them, “*Let’s cross over – to the other side.*” Meaning, “*We’re doing this **together**.*” And, “*There is a destination, and **I’m going to get you there.***”

Now – this is important to point out, because I want us to see that this was a **PROMISE** – that Jesus was giving to His followers. There is a Point A – and then there’s a Point B. You’re not always going to know the ROUTE – and you’re not guaranteed a smooth ride. You’re not guaranteed a LONG ride – nor a short ride. Here’s what you’re guaranteed – you’re guaranteed Point A – and Point B. And that Jesus will be WITH you in from Point A to Point B. He will help you get from one side to the other.

Storms may come. But it doesn’t change His promises. Life gets tough. But it doesn’t change His promises. Bad things happen. But it doesn’t change His promises.

We’re all on a journey with Jesus. And each of our journeys look different. But He promises to be WITH us – and He promises to get us to the other side. The question becomes – ***can I trust Him for everything else in between?***

Today, as we explore this passage, I want to challenge us with a few thoughts.

Here are five truths from today’s passage – that we can apply to our storms of life:

First – Storms WILL come – and since we can’t avoid them, we need to learn how to navigate THROUGH them.

Second – We cannot mistake God’s SILENCE in the storm – with the assumption that God doesn’t care.

Our third truth about the storms of life is this: WHEN the storms come (because – again – they WILL) – the VOICE of the storm will usually be LOUDER than the voice of the Lord. (I know that may seem funny, but hear me out later).

Fourth – Jesus is WITH us – in our storm – and only in HIM can we find peace.

And lastly – It’s much easier to PROFESS something as truth – than it is to truly BELIEVE it – and then walk it out AS truth.

So, let's take a closer look into each of these points in context of our passage today.

POINT NUMBER ONE – STORMS WILL COME – AND WE MUST LEARN TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THEM.

Don't you hate hearing that? Like it or not, storms continue to come. They are guaranteed. Nothing we can do about it. And to make matters worse (if you will) – storms are actually a promise we have from Jesus Himself. But so is the promise of PEACE **through** our storms.

In ***John 16, verse 33, Jesus said this: "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace."*** With me so far? Great! Jesus promised that in HIM – we WILL have peace. But wait a minute – He goes on to say, ***"In the world you will have tribulation."*** Wait – I don't like that. Just go back to what You were saying a second ago, Jesus! I want PEACE! I don't want trouble! But He finishes His statement by saying, ***"These things I have spoken to you, that in ME you may have peace. In the world you WILL have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*** Phew. Cutting it close there, aren't You, Jesus?? Good thing He added that last part there!

See – Jesus gives the **promise** – *"In ME you will have peace."* He gives the **warning** – *"In the WORLD you will have trouble."* There's a contrast --- in Jesus? **PEACE**. In the World? **TROUBLE**. And then He gives us **HOPE** – *"Be of good cheer. I have overcome the world – I have overcome the VERY thing – which gives you the most trouble."*

These disciples were about to go on a journey with Jesus – and experience – something every one of us experiences in our own storms. They're going to experience doubt. Fear. Worry. Discouragement.

But I can't help but draw some similar parallels to the same journey I'm on every day. I don't know about YOU. But isn't life hard sometimes?? You get on the boat with Jesus, and you feel safe and secure. Why? Because He's on the boat! That should be enough, right? All is well – and suddenly the wind and the waves start crashing on your life at every turn. The water starts rising at your ankles. And not sure if you've realized this or not, but the water is supposed to stay on the OUTSIDE of the boat! Not the inside!!!! And you suddenly remember the words of Jesus: "Cheer up! I have overcome the world!" Which should bring comfort, but you look over and notice He's fast asleep. Head on a pillow and everything!

"What now?", you ask. "What do **I** do now?", you ask yourself. See – that's when we get ourselves into the most trouble. We experience the beating of the waves – and the movement of the wind – we see Jesus fast asleep – and then we ask OURSELVES what WE are going to do about it.

It's much harder to believe God's promises when we take a look around the boat of our life – and we don't see that God is moving. Hey – where is Jesus?? Has anyone seen Jesus?? Hey – didn't He get on the boat with us?? But He's not **moving**. He's **silent**. He seems to be **absent**.

I'm not hearing from Him! He's not speaking! And He doesn't even seem to be listening to ME!
"Where is Jesus – in my times of trouble?"

And verse 38 provides the answer: "But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow." He's not JUST asleep – He's made a bed and everything. He found a pillow. Yeah, He's not waking up anytime soon! To which they reply, "Jesus – don't you CARE that we are perishing??!"

Which brings me to:

POINT NUMBER 2 – WE CAN'T MISTAKE GOD'S SILENCE (IN THE STORM)– WITH THE ASSUMPTION THAT HE DOESN'T CARE.

It's interesting to me that Jesus is found SLEEPING. See – I would probably be in the same boat as these disciples here (no pun intended) – where I would calculate what is about to happen and then realize – "Hey – we're going down with this ship! We're about to perish! We're going to DIE!" "JESUS! WAKE UP! WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING RIGHT NOW??? DON'T YOU CARE!?" In fact, when Jesus was first revealed to the world as the Savior, where is it we find Him? ***We find Him sleeping – as a little baby – wrapped up with His head on a pillow – right in the middle of the storm of this great big world. God sent His Savior to rescue the world and when the Wise Men and the Shepherds all came to worship Him, there He was. Sleeping.*** You can imagine what a sight that must have been! "***Huh.***", the shepherds must have thought. But they were now faced with a choice. To question the silence – or rather – accept Him as He was – in great faith.

Verse 36 tells us, "Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along – in the boat – as He was." Can you take Jesus – "as He is"? Or do you need more? See – we'll never find peace in the storm – when our ***expectations*** and ***assumptions*** of Jesus --- are ***beyond His truths***. We can't mistake the silence of our Savior – with the assumption that He doesn't care.

In fact, when is it that you sleep? When chaos ensues? When there's loud music thumping from your neighbor's subwoofers at 10:00 at night? When the kids had ice cream and hot chocolate right before bedtime? When your teenager just got their license and they're not home yet? When you were just given some pretty bad news? No – when is it that you sleep the best? It's when you feel safe – and secure. And here was Jesus – feeling safe and secure. He wasn't worried. What seemed like silence was – quite possibly – just a test. I love the idea that (perhaps) Jesus was merely giving His disciples a chance to respond to the truth – and the promises – He already gave them. Now – it was time for the disciples to decide whether or not they would take Jesus at His Word.

What does God promise us in His Word?

He promises that He "will never leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear.'" (Hebrews 13:5-6)

We also have the same choice today. Do I lean IN to what God is saying – even in the silence? Or do panic out of fear? Because – if I don't take God at His Word – even in the hard times – then my

own fears and thoughts will begin to fill in the blanks, which lead to my own assumptions about God's care for me. Rather than run from our problem or try to jump overboard to escape it --- we need to cry out to God in our times of trouble. ***And you need to know this with all your heart today: God always hears the cries of His people. Don't assume otherwise.*** When we look to Scripture, we see God responding to His people over and over. He never ignores them! We see it with the Israelites and their time in captivity in Egypt. We see it with Jairus and his sick daughter. We see it with Mary and Martha over the death of Lazarus. And if we look closely enough, we'll see it in our own lives, too. ***That God – hears – our – cries.***

We're told – in ***Psalm 107 (speaking of the Israelites) – verses 6, 13, and 19 all say the same thing. We're told, "Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distress."*** It must be important to note if it's said three times, wouldn't you think?

Later on, in ***Matthew 14:30-31, Peter cries out to Jesus as he's sinking on the water. He cries, "Lord, save me!" "And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, 'O you of little faith, why did you doubt?' And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased."***

I think it's really interesting that after Jesus calmed the storm in today's passage (Mark chapter 4), sometime (just a little bit later) – Peter feels comfortable enough at this point to ask Jesus if he can come out onto the water – WITH Jesus – in the midst of the storm. Do you think Peter's faith ****might**** have ***increased*** after witnessing what Jesus can do in today's passage?

In ***Psalm 50:15, God says to "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."*** He wants us to call upon Him at ALL times, but especially in our times of trouble.

Psalm 34:15 reminds us, "The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry." Verse 17-19 go on to say, "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is NEAR to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."

Psalm 145:18-19 says, "The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry – and save them."

Do you get the idea? God hears the cries of His people. He notices those who look to Him in their time of trouble. He doesn't overlook us. And He sees you right now. We're told in ***1 Peter 5:7, that you are to be "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."***

Do you believe those words today? Truly. I need you to answer that in your heart right now. Because if you DON'T believe that God cares for you so much so that He hears every cry you've ever cried... He sees every tear you've ever shed... and He knows every need you have before you even ask – yet He still wants you to ask! If you can't find it in your heart to believe these words

today, the storm is just going to keep on raging. And I don't mean just PROFESSING to believe – but even going as far as to walk it out. But if you CAN find it in your heart to believe these words... you can then begin to find God's peace – only found in HIM. Not in anything of this world – but in the Lord, your Maker. The one who calms the storm – out on the sea – and here in your own heart today. And if you're still in any doubt, go home and read Psalm 139 today – and find out just how special you are to God.

POINT NUMBER 3 – WHEN STORMS DO COME (BECAUSE – AGAIN – THEY WILL) – OTHER VOICES IN OUR LIFE WILL USUALLY SPEAK LOUDER THAN GOD'S VOICE.

You know what's funny? If I'm not careful, God's voice starts to sound like my own voice. He begins to speak in my same southern accent and everything. I'm betting – at times – His voice sounds a lot like your own, too!

I've never audibly heard the voice of God – so truth be told – I have no idea what It sounds like. But I sure know what it looks like --- **[BIBLE]**. And the more time I spend time with His Word, the more I begin to recognize His voice over my own. And over the voice of my friends. And influences. See – we assume God will speak through lightning and thunder – fire and rain – wind and waves. But His voice is much more delicate than that. And in order to hear it, we must drown out the loudest voices in our lives first.

In coaching baseball over the past couple of years, one analogy of God's Word has really stood out to me. When my players are running the bases and fielding the ball, they're not just hearing my voice. They're hearing the voices of their teammates. They're hearing the voices of the opposing coaches. They're hearing the voices of the opposing players. They're hearing their OWN internal voice. **And – perhaps – worst of all – they're hearing the MULTITUDE of voices from all the PARENTS behind the fence.** And wouldn't you know.... All these voices are conflicting each other?? Wouldn't it be nice if all the voices came together as ONE – and gave the same instruction in a clear, unified voice?? Is that too much to ask?? The answer is "Yes." That is too much to ask, I know. But man, wouldn't it be great? Then one day, it hit me. The verse that came to mind is from **John 10:27, where Jesus says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."** Now – I'm not Jesus. And these players are not my sheep, although it feels like I'm herding sheep at times. But it very clearly reminded me just how many voices we have coming at us every day. From every direction. And it gets tough trying to decipher – and determine which ones are best for us. Because not all of them are best for us. In fact – most of them are in direct conflict with one another. Which is why the players on the field get the ball – look left – then look right – then look left again – then look behind them – then do the "Sprinkler" dance a few times and watch our game disappear into the sunset.

See – Jesus said, **"MY sheep – hear MY voice. I know who they are. They follow Me."** And the only way for the sheep to hear the Shepherd's voice – is if they're spending time with Him. Day by day. Morning by morning – and evening by evening. The voice of the Shepherd can SPEAK – through the chaos of the storm. When we know His Word, we will know His voice. And when we know His voice, we will then HEAR His voice. And follow Him. We can be secure in His Word and follow Him out into any storm that may come our way. He is the one who **leads us to the other**

side. *As Deuteronomy 31:8 tells us, “And the Lord, HE is the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed.”* Those other voices in your life? They will leave you. They will forsake you. They’re often only looking out for themselves. They create in us chaos and fear. But God’s Word brings comfort. And peace. It brings correction. Hey – it brings rebuke. Which is needed at times. It brings direction. And guidance. It reminds us just how much we’re loved – and cared for – as His sheep. But to hear that voice, we must KNOW that voice – and then RESPOND to that call. I think the question we must ask ourselves (in these moments) is – **“Which voice am I going to listen to?” BECAUSE** – it’s so easy to just listen to the **LOUDEST** voice in the room. But that voice doesn’t always belong to God. **Think about it.** From the moment you wake up... Everything around you starts fighting for your attention. Isn’t that how life goes? If you’re like us, you have young children at home who start fighting for your attention the moment it’s time to get up. And if it’s Saturday and you get to sleep in – well, guess what? You don’t even have to wake them up. They’ll wake up **EXTRA** early and start jumping into your bed to make sure YOU get up early too. You go about your day – start the coffee – start the shower – brush your teeth – and try to get out the door on time. Traffic could be good today, or it could be bad today. Who knows. You live in Atlanta where the D.O.T. NEVER plans ahead. They’re always one lane short when building new roads. Horns start honking, engines start revving, brakes begin squealing – and if it’s a GOOD day, you pull into work on two wheels just in time to see **Brenda** take your parking spot. She yells at you, by the way, because you forgot she just had hip surgery and you’re inconsiderate for not remembering to give her the spot up front. That’s okay though, because you can beat her to the door – since she’s moving so slow and all. You get into the office and get settled down, just in time for your first meeting and then it’s straight on into overtime. See – what happens is – the entire day goes by where the only voices you’ve heard are those that surround you the most. *It continues on the car ride home with the music and talk-radio we listen to. The movies we watch and the shows we binge. The podcasts we consume and the news channels we bash as we can’t seem to take our eyes off them. The books we read that – although some might be good, we know not all are worth letting in.* We hear it in the opinions of others – those who we trust and those who we don’t even know. We take notice of the trends and standards set forth before us from popular influencers. And then we soak in hours and hours of social media every day. Whether we realize it or not – and whether or not we’d like to admit it – we are bombarded every day by the voices that surround us. The wind and the waves – they beat and batter – until we can’t even recognize the only voice that matters. And then the **outward** voices begin creating in us – **inward** voices – the voices which begin to stir up in us confusion. And fear. And doubt. And insecurities. It’s no wonder we find Jesus asleep in the boat, since we haven’t really been seeking Him thus far anyway.

How do we drown out all those other voices? How do we distinguish the voice of God – through all the chaos? You probably know the story – but I’m reminded of **1 Kings chapter 19** – where Elijah had just had victory over the prophets of Baal. Elijah then experienced some hardship. Some tribulation. Jezebel – Ahab’s wife – decided she had had enough of Elijah and so she sought to kill him. When he got word of the plot, he retreated into the wilderness in complete and utter exhaustion. It was here that Elijah finds a cave and then begins complaining to God. He cries out to God, **“It is enough! Now, Lord, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers!”** See – he decided it was better to give up. Everyone – and everything – was against him. Life wasn’t going

the way he thought it would. He cried out to God and that's when God spoke to him in a way in which he least expected. Elijah stands out on a mountain before the Lord, ***"And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire...". Where was He then? "And after the fire --- a still small voice." (1 Kings 19:11-12)***

Notice – God doesn't speak how we might expect. We think He's going to overturn tables – and start a fire in a bush somewhere – and go before us in a cloud by day and fire by night. But what does He do? He requires that we seek Him – through the chaos – through the storm – and find that still small voice. The one that brings peace. It is the still small voice that calmed the wind and waves. It is the same voice that the wind and the waves have been responding to ever since creation. At the very whisper of the Creator's voice, these elements were created – and they've been obeying His voice ever since. Are WE – (also being His creation) – able tune in – and listen to that same voice? The voice that commands, "Peace." The voice that commands, "Be still." The voice that commands, "Be still – and to KNOW – that He is God." To KNOW – that He is right here with me. He is in our midst.

POINT NUMBER 4 – JEUS IS ALWAYS IN OUR STORM – AND ONLY IN HIM – CAN WE FIND PEACE.

Much like in today's passage, we forget Jesus is in our vessel (now I'm speaking of our earthen vessel). The Holy Spirit dwells in every believer and He helps us navigate our way through our storms. And if God has given Himself to each of us – in the gift of His Spirit – to dwell inside every believer – that alone should bring me PEACE – in any storm. **Isaiah 26:3** tells us, ***"You will keep him in perfect PEACE, whose mind is stayed on You --- BECAUSE --- he trusts in You."*** The mind that is stayed on Jesus – in the midst of the storm – is the one kept in perfect peace. Why? Because they trust in Him. Now – I'm not questioning ANYONE's faith today. But we DO tend to question our OWN faith from time to time, don't we? See – God doesn't promise He will stop the storm. What did Jesus promise? He promised we WILL experience trouble in this world. The storms will come! And they will continue to come. So, He doesn't promise to STOP the storms from coming... but He does promise to give us PEACE in our storms – when we go to HIM for that peace. When we TRUST Him – even on days when we're just "not feeling it." On the days where we're just absolutely defeated. When we've got nothing left. Even MORE so – may we approach Him with our needs – and rely on Him for absolute peace. ***Philippians 4:6-7 should be committed to memory for times like these. We're told, "Be anxious – for NOTHING – but in EVERYTHING – by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the PEACE OF GOD, which surpasses ALL understanding (and that's key today – it goes beyond anything we could ever comprehend) – will guard your hearts and minds – through Christ Jesus."***

There's a song written by Benton Stokes & Tony Wood, called "Sometimes He Calms the Storm". In the song, the writers communicate:

***"Sometimes He calms the storm – With a whispered, 'Peace, be still.'
He can settle any sea, – But it doesn't mean He will.***

*Sometimes He holds us close – And lets the wind and waves go wild;
Sometimes He calms the storm, – And other times He calms His child."*

Hey – a father may be asleep on the couch from time to time – but trust me – he awakens at the needs of His family. He is Protector – and Provider. And He will do what He's got to do – to ensure the safety of His loved ones. And we – being **HIS** children? He knows our needs. And He knows our needs are great – but WE need to know – that He is greater.

Amy Carmichael put it this way:

*"Thou art the Lord who slept upon the pillow,
Thou art the Lord who soothed the furious sea,
What matter beating wind and tossing billow,
If only we are in the boat with Thee?"*

In other words, **"Who cares??"** As long as we're in the boat with Jesus – what else really matters? I shouldn't fear what man can do to me – I need not fear the persecution of the world – nor the problems I face tomorrow (especially since I'm not even guaranteed tomorrow) – and though I may have MANY reasons to fear things in life – none of my fear is justified – if I have FAITH – in the God who promises He can handle it. **What else matters? What problem could be bigger than God Himself?** See – knowing that the storm was coming (because Jesus is God) – it didn't stop Jesus from choosing to cross over with His disciples. I'm reminded of **2 Corinthians 1:3-4, where Paul says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that WE may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we OURSELVES are comforted by God."** Sometimes – He allows the storms in our lives, so that we may experience His COMFORT. And then WITH that same comfort He gives us, we are able to now comfort those around us who are in their own storm. Verse 36 adds a neat perspective for us. It says, **"And other little boats were also with Him."** We're not in the storm alone. Jesus is with us – but so are other believers. In this very boat – that we read about today – was the early Church. The first members of God's Church – were right here in this boat. And this boat ride provided a model of what the Church should still look like today: Followers of Jesus – passing through the storms of life – heading in the same direction – finding peace in Jesus – and then comforting one another with the same comfort Jesus provides to us.

LASTLY (POINT NUMBER 5) – IT'S EASY TO PROFESS A BELIEF IN GOD (HIS PROMISES, HIS WORD, ETC.) – UNTIL STORMS COME.

I want to propose a thought to you, which is this: I think the disciples were MORE afraid of their situation - AFTER Jesus calmed the storm - than they were in the middle of the storm itself. According to Old Testament Scriptures (Psalm 65:5, Proverbs 30:4, Psalm 107), the Jews knew God as the only one who had power over the wind and waves. So, when Jesus stood up and literally rebuked the wind and waves, saying, "Peace, be still!" – and then the wind ceased and there was a great calm? You can imagine their surprise. To which, in **verse 41, "And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, 'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey**

Him!” And I think this question – is the most important question we can ask in our storm. In fact, we need to ask ourselves today: *Who can this be? Who is this Man – who can do such a thing – in my own life?* Is this Man truly God in my life? Because if He is, I’m not just going to profess it as knowledge – I’m going to live out His promises! Ask yourself this question the next time a storm rolls in: ***If God truly is God – in MY life – then will I take Him at His Word – and trust Him to still my heart right now? Because only HE can!*** Look again at verses 39 and 40: ***“Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, ‘Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?’”***

Notice Jesus’s response to the **wind and waves**? He REBUKED them. Notice Jesus’s response to the **disciples**? He REBUKED them also! He rebuked the elements – in order to bring **CALM** to the chaos. But he rebuked His disciples – in order to stir them up – and challenge their faith. **Not just what they PROFESS – but what they truly BELIEVE.** I think Jesus wanted to remind them (and even us here today) – that He is GREATER than any problem we can ever face! The outcome may not turn out the way we thought... but it doesn’t change who He says He is – and what He came to do for each of us. See – Jesus didn’t come to die in this boat! No – He came to lay down His life for you and me. To OVERCOME the world – and all its troubles. Not so I can FEAR. But so I can TRUST. See – the same One who laid down to rest (here in Mark chapter 4) – is the same One who rose again to take care of the disciples’ biggest problem. The same One who appears to be laying down in rest right now in your own storm – is the same One who rises up to give you peace. The same One who laid down in rest 2,000 years ago (in what appeared to be “the end” – is the same One who rose again in glory – to overcome the world. Why? So I might know Him as Messiah. So, I might know Him as Master of not just the universe – the wind and the waves – but as Master of My Heart.

Today – may we resist **THE LOUDEST VOICE** in the room – and pay attention to the still small voice – of our Savior. **THE ONE WHO BRINGS CALM IN THE CHAOS.** Who is this Man? **His name is JESUS.**