

4.07 JESUS CALMS THE STORM

MARK 4:35-41

One day, Jesus had been teaching all day long. There were still very many people wanting to listen to His stories and learn from Him how to live lives that were pleasing to God. On this day, He was once again teaching by the sea. Because there were so many people wanting to hear Him, He had to get into a boat to be seen and heard by everyone. This was not the only time He had to speak to the people from a boat! He had many stories to tell them that day. He told the stories in a way that all of the people listening would understand clearly. He didn't want His lessons to be difficult for them.

Later, when He was alone with only His disciples, He went over the stories again, but He explained them with a few more details. Because they followed Him wherever He went, they heard Him tell stories and teach many times. They were able to understand more deeply what Jesus had to say. Then, after it got even later in the day, He said to them, "Let's go across the sea to the other side." Therefore, they stayed in the boat where He had been teaching and other boats came along in the sea, as well.

As they went across the sea, a huge storm began which had lots of wind. The wind began to make big waves in the water. The waves then began to crash over into the boat. It seemed very dangerous! The boat might even sink! This made the disciples afraid, and they went to wake up Jesus, who had been taking a much-needed nap. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, aren't you worried about this storm? We might sink!"

Jesus had been sleeping deeply. He had spent the whole day teaching and He was extremely tired. He had not been at all worried about the storm. However, because the disciples woke Him from His sleep He spoke to the storm and told the wind and waves to settle down. He said, "Peace. Be still." Immediately after He said that, the wind stopped. Everything became calm once more. He turned to the disciples and said, "Why were you so afraid? Why is it you didn't have faith?"

The disciples were amazed at what they had just seen and even became frightened. They said to each other, "Who can this be? Even the wind and the waves of the sea obey Him." Although they had seen Jesus do other miracles, watching the wind and the waves listen to Him and obey Him was extraordinary. They then realized that Jesus was even more powerful than nature.

4.07 JESUS CALMS THE STORM - TEACHER'S GUIDE

MARK 4:35-41

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Jesus had been teaching and telling stories all day. He had told many stories. You know how it feels when *you've* been busy all day! Do you know how your mother or father feel after they've worked hard all day? Many times, if someone is so very tired, they need to take a nap.
- 2) Jesus repeated Himself and told the stories to his disciples again, explaining in more detail what lessons they were to learn from these stories.
- 3) As it got later, they took the boat they were on and set out into the sea to go to the other side. Then, a large storm began. Have you been in a large storm? Has the rain come down so hard and has the wind-blown so hard that it was actually frightening?
- 4) Jesus was asleep, but His disciples were awake, and they were frightened by the big storm that started.
- 5) Jesus spoke to the wind and waves and they obeyed Him. Immediately, the storm stopped—the water became calm and the wind stopped blowing.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why was Jesus tired this day?
- 2) Where were Jesus and His disciples going in the boat?
- 3) What was Jesus doing when the storm began to happen?
- 4) How did the disciples feel?
- 5) How did the disciples feel after Jesus calmed the storm?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Jesus had been teaching people all day.
- 2) They were going to the other side of the sea.
- 3) Jesus was sleeping.
- 4) The disciples were frightened.
- 5) The disciples were amazed that even the wind and waves, even nature itself listened to Jesus and obeyed Him.