

Sermon Discussion Questions

“HOPE IN THE STORM”

Big Idea: Our only hope in the storm is the powerful presence of Jesus.

Discuss

The account of Jesus stilling the storm is probably one of the more familiar stories about Jesus, and we may be tempted to read it, come up with a few “life-lessons” (such as “we don’t need to be afraid”) and move on. Let’s try to dig a little deeper, however.

- 1) What had all of Jesus’ disciples presumably already witnessed and learned about Jesus by the time this episode occurred? Yet they are still afraid when the storm descends on their boat.
 - Why do you think they were so afraid?
 - What were they still learning about Jesus?
- 2) Look at what Jesus says to the disciples. (v. 40) The disciples’ faith clearly wilted in the crisis of the storm, and they are even more fearful after Jesus calms the storm. (v. 41)
 - What perhaps strikes you as surprising about Jesus’ response to the disciples?
 - Why are the disciples even more terrified after Jesus calms the storm?
 - What are some possible reasons that their faith was so small (or even non-existent)? What can strengthen faith? Consider both the *object* of faith and the *exercise* of faith. See Psalm 103 and John 16:33 and consider the roles a true knowledge of God (Father, Son and Spirit), an ever-deepening knowledge of Scripture, and remembrance play.
- 3) A key Christian doctrine, defended through the centuries, is that Jesus was fully God and fully man. The Nicene Creed (first formulated in 325 A. D. and found in the back of the Trinity Hymnal or on many internet sites) states that Jesus was the “only-begotten Son of God . . . very God of very God . . . being of one substance with the Father.” It goes on to say that he was “incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man.”
 - What evidence of Jesus’ humanity do we see in this story? See v. 38 and look at Matthew 8:20 for a detail Matthew gives before telling the story of Jesus and the storm.
 - What evidence do we see in this story that makes clear that Jesus is God? (vv. 38-40)



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

DATE: November 26, 2017

SPEAKER: Brian/Frank

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

PASSAGE: Mark 4:35-41

Pray

Praise God for his perfect control over both storms and calm.

Confess the times that you have reacted like the disciples, doubting that God knows or cares about your frightening circumstances.

Thank God for being with you and watching over you throughout your life. Thank him, too, for helping us when we struggle to believe this. (Mark 9:24)

Ask God to help you know him as he really is, not as how you imagine him or wish him to be. Pray that he will use the hard circumstances of your life to draw you closer to him.

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Church of the First Born: Mercy, MVP, Smokin’ for Jesus, and Tutoring

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

William and Charisa serving in a sensitive area