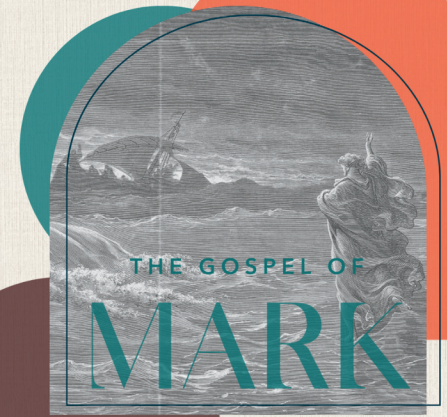


September 17, 2023

LORD OF THE STORM

Pastor Jason Uptmore // Mark 4:35-41



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



35 On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. 37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. 38 Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. 40 And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"



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GROW IN THE WORD

- How would you describe the disciples' mental and emotional state when they woke Jesus with a rebuking question in verse 38? In what ways can you relate?

- How can you maintain faith and trust in God's care for you in the midst of an unexpected storm? Reflect on a recent, unexpected storm and read Philippians 4:6-7; Isaiah 41:10.

02. Jesus awoke and calmed the raging storm over the sea with just a few words. The storm immediately stilled. He then rebuked the disciples and questioned their faith. They responded with fear and awe, wondering over Jesus' power to still the storm (v. 39-41).

- What do you learn about Jesus in this passage? Consider his words to the storm and to the disciples. See also Psalm 89:8-9; Colossians 2:9-10.



GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

Use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group up into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each of the members get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Share something you are celebrating (a high) or something that you are working through (a low) this week.
- Ask the second question in the Connect section of the passage guide. You can discuss as a big group or in smaller groups of 2-4 people.
- If your group is new to each other, consider spending time discussing group guidelines and expectations.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Read each section of Scripture you are focusing on prior to discussion. Select 1-2 of the questions that contain cross-references from each section.
- Read the cross-references together and discuss the questions.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Select 1-2 application questions from the Grow in the Word section to discuss.
- Get in smaller groups of 2-4 if you haven't already. Spend time sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.
- Close group time by listening to Psalm 46 by Shane and Shane as one group. Reflect on the lyrics and how they connect to the main themes of Mark 4:35-41.