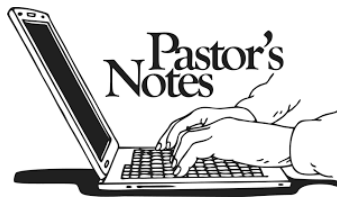


P.O. Box 275  
210 W. Small St  
Westport, In. 47283  
www.sdecaturbaptist.org

## South Decatur Baptist Church

Pastor Gary L. East

4/17/21



### Help in a Storm

**Mark 4:37** And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

It was getting toward evening and Jesus and His disciples had a busy day. Jesus had taught crowds of people along with several parables. He shows signs of fatigue from incessant interruptions and distractions by the people pursuing Him. As they got into the boat Jesus laid down in the back of the ship (no doubt so that water would be less likely to splash on Him) and fell asleep. A lake boat is a noisy place when sailing, so he must have been really tired to sleep so peacefully. (He understands our weakness. He is able to sympathize with us when we get tired) Suddenly a storm blew in and the waves became high. Water was splashing into the bow of the boat. The disciples became alarmed at the fierceness of the storm, but Jesus still slept in the back of the boat. Four of these disciples were experienced fishermen and had spent a lot of time in a boat under many different conditions. Even they were fearful of the storm they now faced. The boat was starting to fill with water. But Jesus still slept in the back of the boat.

The Sea of Galilee where they sailed, is the largest freshwater lake in Israel, and it is approximately 33 mi in circumference, about 13 mi long, and 8.1 mi wide. The lake has a total area of 64.4 sq. mi at its fullest, and a maximum depth of approximately 141 feet. The area is known for sudden storms that would sometimes cause problems for boat traffic.

I remember many years ago on Indiana's Lake Monroe, a sudden storm came up one summer and sank an aluminum boat. The waves became so violent that the bottom of the boat was split open. Waves can get high even on a lake.

Mark chapter four then goes on to say:

Mark 4:38-41 *"And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awoke him, and said unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? 39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith? 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"* Jesus had to be awoken during a storm on the lake. Jesus wasn't worried because He knew the outcome. He was not afraid for His physical life. Then Jesus spoke the word and the storm ceased and this made the disciples afraid to see such power. When Jesus was talking about His future sacrifice on the cross in Mark He made the statement: Mark 12:11 *"This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?"* This storm was the Lord's doing and they would learn a great lesson in faith because of this storm. Jesus then asked them a question:

Mark 4:40 *"And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"*

After rebuking the storm, Jesus then rebukes His disciples. Their response revealed that their fear of the situation was greater than their faith in Him and His ability to care for them. The disciples had seen many miracles by this time. I guess the visual result of healing might seem small compared to the controlling of a big storm. Their faith was growing but this miracle seemed to be over the top. Control a storm! They had forgotten they were dealing with the full power of God. Stopping a storm is nothing for the creator of the universe.

That's the way life is too. Things can be fine one moment and the next, the bottom falls out. One minute you can be enjoying fair weather and the next, you find yourself in the middle of a terrible storm. One phone call, one twenty-four

hour period of time, one doctor visit, one tick of the clock, and there you are, in the storm. If the truth be known, God has already stopped many potential storms in our life that we did not even know about, but we always say in the middle of a problem, “This is different”. This is visual and its emotional and I don’t see a way out. That’s the feeling the disciples got when they were in the midst of their storm. They even said to Jesus: *“they awake him, and said unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?”* (Verse 38) How can He sleep when we are in such danger, they said to themselves, but God had never lost sight of them. He knew where they were and what problem they now faced.

This life is not heaven on earth and just as there are frightful storms in the weather, we sometimes have storms in our life. Jesus knew the storm was coming and He was the one who said to get into the boat in the first place. God knows what’s ahead in our life and He can prepare our faith in advance, if we will let Him. Because Jesus is God we can trust Him and choose to live by faith in Him, rather than in fear, regardless of the situations in our lives. We need to remember:

Hebrews 13:5b *“for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”* God wants to give us peace on the inside. (Philippians 4:4-9, John 14:27) He wants us to have Joy. (John 15:11) He doesn’t want us to fear. (2 Timothy 1:7) He is still asking the same question today: Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?”

The problem is not that we have no help. The problem is that we do not seek and accept God’s help. GE

---

**Matthew 14:30-32 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? 32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.**

---

### **Means Of God’s Grace**

Watchman Nee told about a new convert who came in deep distress to see him. “No matter how much I pray, no matter how hard I try, I simply cannot seem to be faithful to my Lord. I think I’m losing my salvation.” Nee said, “Do you see this dog here? He is my dog. He is house-trained; he never makes a mess; he is obedient; he is a pure delight to me. Out in the kitchen I have a son, a baby son. He makes a mess, he throws his food around, he fouls his clothes, he is a total mess. But who is going to inherit my kingdom? Not my dog; my son is my heir. You are Jesus Christ’s heir because it is for you that He died.” We are Christ’s heirs, not through our perfection but by means of His grace.

---

### **Living Partnership**

F.B. Meyer wrote about two Germans who wanted to climb the Matterhorn. They hired three guides and began their ascent at the steepest and most slippery part. The men roped themselves together in this order: guide, traveler, guide, traveler, guide. They had gone only a little way up the side when the last man lost his footing. He was held up temporarily by the other four, because each had a toehold in the niches they had cut in the ice. But then the next man slipped, and he pulled down the two above him. The only one to stand firm was the first guide, who had driven a spike deep into the ice. Because he held his ground, all the men beneath him regained their footing. F.B. Meyer concluded his story by drawing a spiritual application. He said, “I am like one of those men who slipped, but thank God, I am bound in a living partnership to Christ. And because He stands, I will never perish.” – Our Daily Bread.

---

**A true revival means nothing less than a revolution, casting out the spirit of worldliness, making God's love triumph in the heart. - Andrew Murray.**