

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for November 6, 2016

Authority Over The Seas
Mark 4:35-41

I. The Setting (4:35-36)

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."

- "On that day"
 - This was a busy day including the teaching in parables
- "Let us go across to the other side"
 - Perhaps seeking rest and separation from the masses

³⁶ *And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.*

- Scene started with Jesus teaching from boat (4:1-2)
- "just as he was"
 - In the boat in which He was already teaching
- "other boats"
 - Probably reference to other followers around Jesus beside the 12 as mentioned in Mark 4:10

II. The Storm (4:37-38)

³⁷ *And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.*

- Windstorms were common on the Sea of Galilee
 - "The Sea of Galilee is located in a depression some 700 ft (200 m) below sea level and is surrounded by hills. Frequently a rush of wind and the right mix of temperatures can cause a storm to come suddenly on the lake. Storms on the Sea of Galilee were known for their suddenness and violence." (NET Bible Notes)
- Boat held all the disciples
 - Boat was a decent size, not a canoe
 - Yet the boat was already taking on water; thus, it was a big storm!

³⁸ *But he 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?"*

- Stern=Back of the boat under some elevated platform
- How was Jesus sleeping through this storm?
 - He was exhausted from a long day of ministering to people
 - This is a mark of Jesus' humanity
- Disciples, who were fishermen, thought they were going to die
 - This was probably the biggest storm they had seen!

- Disciples cried for help yet gave quite the accusation as well
 - This is a breaking point revealing immaturity of disciples

III. The Silencing (4:39-40)

³⁹ *And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

- Jesus "rebuked" the wind and the sea
 - Two commands: Maybe one for wind and other for the seas
 - Result: Immediate wind ceasing AND waves calming
- **Psalm 89:8-9** "O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you? ⁹ You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them."
- **Psalm 104:5-7** "He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved. ⁶ You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. ⁷ At your rebuke they fled; at the sound of your thunder they took to flight."
- **Psalm 107:23-30** "Some went down to the sea in ships, doing business on the great waters; ²⁴ they saw the deeds of the Lord, his wondrous works in the deep. ²⁵ For he commanded and raised the stormy wind, which lifted up the waves of the sea. ²⁶ They mounted up to heaven; they went down to the depths; their courage melted away in their evil plight; ²⁷ they reeled and staggered like drunken men and were at their wits' end. ²⁸ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. ²⁹ He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. ³⁰ Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven."
- In contrast to "great windstorm" (4:37), now a "great calm" resulted

⁴⁰ *He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"*

- "afraid" (*deilos*) used 3 times in NT (Mark 4:40; Matthew 8:26; Revelation 21:8)
 - **Revelation 21:8** "But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."
- True faith cannot cooperate with cowardice and fear
- Instead, true faith will bring about boldness and confidence in Christ
- Despite all that the disciples had seen (miracles) and heard (parables, 4:11), they still were not completely convinced in faith

IV. The Shock (4:41)

⁴¹ *And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"*

- They literally "feared a great fear"
 - "Great storm" (v. 37) → "Great calm" (v. 39) → "Great fear" (v. 41)

- Different fears:
 - *Deilos*=timid, afraid, cowardly (v. 40)
 - *phobos*=fear of the Lord (at least in Mark's usage, v. 41)
- **Proverbs 1:7** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."
- **Proverbs 9:10** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."
- "Who is this?" asked repeatedly throughout Mark
 - Check 1:27 (teaching in synagogue); 2:7 (forgiving sins)