

Jesus—Calm of the Storm
Mark 4:35-41
February 17, 2013

Introduction

"Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Answer is that only God has control over the winds and the waters. Recall that in **Mark 1:1**, Mark is interested in showing us that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus Christ is the God-Man. His calming the seas is the greatest example of His power as God, and His humanity.

***John 1:3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

***Colossians 1:16-17** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

***Hebrews 1:2-3** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; ³who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power.*

Jesus Christ is the Creator of the universe, and we exist through Him.

Here Mark gives us a day of Jesus' life—He is teaching the crowd in parables in **4:1-2**, and Mark says that the crowd is so large that they press Jesus to the waters, and He has to get into the boat to preach to the crowd. He preaches to the crowd and teaches the disciples. He probably does some healing during this time and throughout the day (as His norm). Matthew suggests that they are in Capernaum (**Matt 8:14**) in the northwest part of the Sea of Galilee.

The Sea of Galilee is where He spends most of His ministry.

Sea of Galilee

- 13 miles long (north/south) and 8 miles wide (east/west)
- 680 feet below sea level—it is essentially a bowl where water has filled up
- Filled from Jordan river from Mt Hermon to the north
- Fresh water lake—very prolific fish producing lake.
- 30 miles east of Mediterranean Sea
- To the north
- Mt Hermon—9200 feet above sea level (almost 10000 feet above Sea of Galilee)
- To the east
- Golan Heights—3000 feet high plateau
- To the west
- Tiberias—1500 feet above Sea of Galilee with rolling hills

The lake is unique because it is below sea level, surrounded by mountains to the north, that it creates a natural canyon where winds are amplified. It is like walking in downtown Charlotte with the winds gusting through the streets in between the tall buildings. The winds are much stronger between buildings and canyon walls than in the open flat. The winds are strongest in the Sea of Galilee between November and April where the winds come from the north, north west (from the Med Sea) and goes down between canyons and gullies to the lake, creating turmoil on the lake.

Mark 4:35-41 *On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." ³⁶Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. ³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. ³⁸But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"*

Sea of Galilee is the perfect place for Jesus to demonstrate His power to the disciples. This story is also found in **Matthew 8:23-27** and **Luke 8:22-25**.

I. The Calm Before the Storm

- Evening
 - Only Mark records that it is in the evening
 - Same day as 4:1—Chapter 4 all one day.
- Go to other side
 - Some assume that Jesus wanted to go to the other side was to get away from the crowd and get some rest
 - However He is going east because of divine appointment

Mark 5:1-2 *Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. ²And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,*

- They took Him along

Mark 4:1 *And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea.*

- Jesus was teaching on the boat during that time
- Boat
 - Generic word—small boat to big ships
 - Galilean boat (Picture on presentation)
 - With sails—it has rowing capability
 - Hold up to 15 people

Luke 8:23a *But as they sailed*

- Other little boats with Him
 - Not only the apostles, but others who were following Jesus
- Jesus asleep
 - Jesus was tired (teaching all day)
 - His head was on the cushion (**v 38**)
 - **Luke 8:23** says that He fell asleep as soon as they sailed
 - Jesus' humanity in full view
 - Only record in Gospels that Jesus slept

II. The Calm During the Storm

- Great windstorm
 - Gale to hurricane strength winds (70+ mph)

- **Luke 8:23**—came down on the lake
- Waves
 - Winds were creating tremendous waves
 - Filling up the boat

Note: Sometimes paintings will show clouds and lightning. This is not necessarily the case because it could have been a clear, beautiful night—except for the winds.

- Jesus sleeps through
 - He is really tired from His labors!
 - At the same time, He knew that the storm was coming
 - He slept through it because He trusts God completely
- Disciples' fear
 - They were afraid (who wouldn't be!)
 - They were dying (in their view)
 - It was dark
 - They scream to wake Jesus up
 - Many voices

Luke 8:24 *And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!"*

Matthew 8:25 *Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"*

Mark 4:38 *"Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"*

Psalms 10:1 *Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble?*

Note: Why did they wake up Jesus? Did they know that He had the power to stop the waves? No, but they knew Him to be God's man. They thought that perhaps He could appeal to God to get them to safety. What happened next was beyond their comprehension.

- Peace, be still
 - The winds and waves obeyed His voice
 - They are responding to the Creator
- Great calm
 - Even the waves stopped immediately

III. The Storm After the Calm

- Why are you fearful?
 - Why don't you trust Me?
 - This was a faith lesson
 - Our Lord can be trusted in the most threatening of situations
 - He cares and will respond
- Disciples' reaction
 - Exceedingly afraid!
 - Of what? Of who?
 - Of the weather? No the seas are now calm and they are out of danger
 - Of Jesus Christ!
 - Why?

- They know that they are in the presence of God—it is now dawning on them that Jesus is more than just a man! He must be God!
- This is the normal reaction when men encounters God!

Judges 13:21-22 *When the Angel of the Lord appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the Lord. ²²And Manoah said to his wife, "We shall surely die, because we have seen God!"*

Ezekiel 1:28 *Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.*

Isaiah 6:5 *So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts."*

Revelation 1:17-18 *And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."*

Daniel 10:5-9 *I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain Man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! ⁶His body was like beryl, His face like the appearance of lightning, His eyes like torches of fire, His arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of His words like the voice of a multitude. ⁷And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. ⁸Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. ⁹Yet I heard the sound of His words; and while I heard the sound of His words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.*

Application

- Jesus is God and has power over everything in the universe
- Jesus is God and cares for us!

1 Peter 5:7 *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*