

MARK

Mark Wk 14
Mk. 4:35-41

General:

- Many people assume that following Jesus should lead to a happier, easier, or more comfortable life. Why do you think that expectation is so common?
- After a long day of ministry, Jesus tells His disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." What does this reveal about Jesus' mission and priorities?
- The storm arises while the disciples are doing exactly what Jesus told them to do. What does that teach us about the relationship between obedience and difficulty?
- In the middle of the storm, Jesus is asleep on a cushion. What does this moment reveal about His humanity, and His trust in the Father?
- In verse 38, the disciples ask: "Teacher do you not care that we are perishing?" Why do suffering and uncertainty often lead us to question God's care for us?
- When Jesus rebukes the wind and the sea, creation immediately obeys Him. What is Mark revealing about Jesus through this miracle?
- The disciples begin the story afraid of the storm and end the story afraid of Jesus. What do your fears, worries, and responses to life's storms reveal about what you truly believe about Jesus?

Take Home 1: The main part of this passage is about the identity of Jesus (Mk. 4:41)

- When you face challenges, are you more focused on fixing the problem or seeing Jesus more clearly through it?
- Pastor Chip compared this story to Jonah. How does knowing that the God who once calmed the storm is now present in the boat change the way you read this passage?

Take Home 2: Obedience can lead right into difficulty (Mk. 4:35)

- Have you ever experienced hardship while faithfully following what you believed God was calling you to do? What did you learn from it?
- What expectations about following Jesus might need to be adjusted in light of this story?

Take Home 3: Storms reveal what comfort conceals (Mk. 4:37)

- How do you typically respond when life's storms expose fear, anxiety, or uncertainty?
- Pastor Chip said, "Many Christians would rather have calm seas without Jesus, than a storm with Jesus." In what ways are you tempted to seek comfort, security, or control more than closeness with Christ?
- What are you most afraid of losing? What might that reveal about where you've placed your trust?

Take Home 4: Is our view of reality determined by circumstances or by God's sovereignty? (Mk. 4:38a)

- Jesus sleeps while the disciples panic. What does your level of peace (or lack of peace) reveal about where you're placing your trust right now?
- How can we tell when our understanding of reality is being shaped more by our circumstances than by our confidence in God?

Take Home 5: Maybe it is time we recognize the answers to life are really found in Jesus (Mk. 4:39)

- Pastor Chip said: "Jesus didn't merely calm the sea, he exposed the false gods of control." Where do you find yourself seeking control instead of trust?
- The disciples leave asking, "Who then is this?" As you reflect on this passage, how would you answer that question today?