

PART ONE: Who Can This Be?

Mark 4:35-5:20

In the previous verses, Jesus spent the bulk of His time teaching the multitudes through parables. He also spent some time explaining the meaning behind the parables and that to those who have open ears to hear and receive the Word, understanding would be given.

Read Mark 4:35-41.

1. What did Jesus say they were going to accomplish with this boat trip? (v. 35)

2. Record the two questions asked by the disciples in this passage.

Question #1 (v. 38) _____

Question #2 (v. 41) _____

3. When the storm hit, the disciples concluded two things, as seen by their question in verse 38.

What did they conclude about Jesus? _____

What did they conclude about the impact of the storm on their lives? _____

4. **THINK:** When you consider their two questions together, what do you think the disciples believed or expected Jesus to do about the storm when they woke Him up? What does this say about their understanding of Jesus?

5. Go back and review the following verses and record what Jesus did in each of these passages.

Mark 1:25 _____

Mark 1:31 _____

Mark 1:34 _____

Mark 1:41-42 _____

Mark 2:5 _____

Mark 2:11-12 _____

Mark 3:5 _____

6. Now go back and record what was revealed about Jesus in these verses.

Mark 1:11 _____

Mark 1:22 _____

Mark 1:24 _____

Mark 1:27 _____

Mark 2:28 _____

Mark 3:11 _____

The disciples had spent time with Jesus. They had experienced and witnessed Jesus doing incredible signs and wonders in a variety of different ways. They had also been present when amazing truths were revealed about Jesus. Nevertheless, after Jesus gathered them together and said, "Let us cross over to the other side", they no longer believed they would reach the other side when a violent storm hit. All they could see was the waves beating on the boat and the water filling the inside. They were convinced they were perishing. They began to doubt Jesus and wonder if He really cared about them. It never even occurred to them that He could do something about the wind or the waves.

7. When you "wake up" Jesus (when you pray), do you really believe and expect that He will do anything about the storms in your life? Why or why not?

8. Think back on your own life and write down some of the wondrous things Jesus has done in it and what you have come to know about Him.

9. Does anything in this passage indicate that Jesus caused the storm? _____

10. What did Jesus do when the disciples woke Him up and questioned Him, and what happened as a result? (v. 39)

11. Consider what the disciples must have learned through this experience. What can you learn about God and the storms in your life from this passage?

12. How will you tangibly apply what you have learned when the storms of life hit?

Jesus has a plan for each of our lives, and He has the power to make those plans happen no matter what the enemy might try to throw at us. But, we could save ourselves a lot of grief if we would purpose to take Him with us as He is – the One that even the wind and sea obey.

... they took Him, along in the boat as He was.

- Mark 4:36b

Read Mark 5:1-20.

Notice that the events of this passage happened immediately after Jesus and His disciples made it to the other side of the sea and had gotten out of the boat.

13. Read Matthew 8:28-34 and record any additional information about the events detailed in this passage.

These men, and more specifically the one to which Mark refers, had been laid hold of by Satan. It is likely this happened as a result of carelessly entertaining sin.

Jesus, referring to Satan, said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...” (John 10:10a)

14. **THINK:** Going back to Mark 5:1-5, in what ways had Satan achieved these things (steal, kill, and destroy) in the life of this man?

15. Often in life, we look to human and worldly answers to the problems and issues we face. How did the community try to handle the situation? (v. 4)

16. **THINK:** How does this compare to how our modern society deals with people who are tormented or dangerous to our way of life?

There are just some problems that our society cannot handle. This man had lost everything as a result of sin: his home, his family, his livelihood, his ability to control himself, his dignity, and his peace of mind. His community was powerless to help him.

There is only one person who can deal with sin and Satan. In a single evening, Jesus traveled across the sea, through what some think may have been a storm stirred up by Satan, to rescue just two men. Some might wonder, “Was it worth all the trouble for just two men? Couldn’t His time have been better spent elsewhere reaching more people?” But we must remember that Jesus left Heaven, came to Earth, suffered, and died for the few who would find the narrow gate that leads to life. This is the beautiful heart of Jesus.

17. How did the man (not the demons) react to seeing Jesus? (v. 6)

Society had done its best to try to tame and bind this man, but the demons were too powerful for them. Yet it took only one look at Jesus, and the demons were powerless to keep him from running to Jesus in worship! WOW!

18. Briefly summarize the exchange between Jesus and the legion of demons and the final outcome. (v. 7-13)

19. Read verses 14-17. How did the people respond to seeing the man clothed and sitting in his right mind? (v. 15, 17)

20. **THINK:** What do you think caused them to be afraid?

21. What made them want Jesus, the one who can rebuke the wind, the waves, and a legion of demons; to depart from their region?

Let's be honest. How many of us thought, "Why did Jesus allow those demons to possess those pigs? Was that fair to the property owner?"

22. **THINK:** Where do these questions stem from? What specifically are we concerned about?

Some of you may have been concerned about the innocent pigs. Perhaps others saw the pigs as a source of income for the owners and worried about their financial future, etc. However, herein lies a problem. Too often we fail to see the Creator of the Universe - the One who holds the power to control the wind and waves, to command a legion of demons out of man, and the one Who offers forgiveness and reconciliation with God – standing right in front of us while we are focused on pigs and money.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. **I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.**

- John 10:10

23. After being set free by Jesus, what did the man hope to do, and what did he purpose to do instead?

In the end, this man recognized the importance of obedience in his continued relationship with Jesus. He longed to go with Jesus, but Jesus wanted him to stay, to be salt and light in his corner of the world, and that is exactly what he did.

24. Take a moment to record what the Holy Spirit is showing you personally through today's study.

PART TWO: A Focused Look at Faith and Fear

Mark 4:40

In Mark 4:40, we see Jesus rebuke the disciples for their lack of faith due to fear. When we are afraid or worried, it indicates our lack of faith as well. God's Word is clear that we are to be anxious for nothing, we are not to worry, and we can trust Him for all of our needs.

Read Mark 4:40.

25. Jesus asked the disciples two questions. Write each one down.

26. The first question gives understanding to the second question. What indicated to Jesus that their faith was small?

27. Did Jesus keep the disciples from the storm? _____

28. Was He with them in the storm? _____

29. He was. Yet the disciples resorted to fear rather than faith in their storm. We know that Jesus is with us in our storms and yet we too can resort to worry. Why do you think this is and how do we remove the worry during storms?

Jesus performed a miracle that night on the sea with the disciples. However, this was not the first miracle they witnessed. (See questions 5 and 6). Yet they still feared.

While we may never be on a boat in an actual storm, fearing for our lives, we have our own troubles. Let's look at what God's Word says about fear and faith so that, when we are troubled and worried, we know Whom we can cry out to and trust to keep us safe.

30. Read Matthew 6:25. What is the command Jesus gives?

31. Continue reading Matthew 6:26-30. What does it say about us if we do not believe God will take care of us?

32. How is this like the disciples in Mark 4:40? Be specific, using both passages.

When we don't trust God, who provides for the tiny birds, creates the perfect flowers, and calms the seas; we are revealing how small our faith is.

33. Read Matthew 6:31-33. What are we to do instead of worrying? (v. 33)

34. What are some things that worry you?

35. How can you apply Matthew 6:33 to those things that trouble you?

Psalm 27 is a beautiful Psalm that reminds us who God is and our responsibility in trusting Him.

36. Read Psalm 27:8. How does this verse resonate with Matthew 6:33?

37. Read Psalm 27:4. What is the “one thing” King David desired?

38. While in the house of the Lord, what would David do?

39. Read Psalm 27:5. What would the Lord do for him?

40. Now go to the beginning and read Psalm 27:1-3, and write down everything these verses teach you about who God is and why we have nothing to fear.

41. Describe how Psalm 27 can take you from little faith to growing faith.

42. Read Deuteronomy 31:6. What is promised?

43. Do you believe this promise? How can this promise help you in times of trouble?

44. How could this truth have helped the disciples on that stormy night?

45. In a time of trouble, would the Lord ask you, as he asked the disciples, where your faith is? If so, what have you learned in this lesson to help you grow in your faith?

46. Read Philippians 4:6-7. Write out the steps to take when you feel anxious.

47. What is the result of taking these steps?

Trusting the Lord in times of trouble, seeking Him first, and making our requests known will increase our faith. So, when the storms come, we can surrender to the One who promises never to leave us or forsake us and Who will give us the peace that passes all understanding! Turn your worries and fears over to the One whom even the winds obey!

Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

- Psalm 56:3