

The Dynamics of Authentic Christian Living
(How to Stand Spiritually Tall in a Dark and Dying Day)

The Church and the Wisdom of God

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Text: Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus Calms the Storm)

We live in a dark, dangerous, demonic day in which the world is dying in its sin. In Mark 4:35-5:43, we see Jesus Christ is shown to be the sovereign God who has power over Danger (calming the wind and waves), Demons (the exorcism in the man possessed by Legion), Disease (the healing of the woman with the issue of blood) and Death (raising Jairus' daughter). In the first account we see:

I. The Disciples' Predicament – They Faced a Storm

Depression, temptation and grief often seem about to drown our faith.

Christ is not asleep to our needs, but can be trusted to save us.

How do we know His sovereignty except through storms?

We are not promised freedom from the storms of life. On the contrary, "... In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

The Promise – Jesus said, "Let us go over to the other side."

Spoken by the sovereign, this is a guarantee of safe arrival, but not a promise of ease or freedom from storms.

The Presence – The disciples, as we, are comforted and secure, in spite of the circumstances, because of the presence of Christ.

The Pattern – Jesus provides a pattern or example of peaceful calm and resting even in the midst of the storms. We can be confident in the storms of life, knowing He cares and controls.

II. The Disciples Focused on the Savior

Their initial focus was on their personal safety. It's not enough to turn to Christ only in the storm, but to know Him intimately enough to have a relationship that instills confidence to turn to Him in times of trouble.

The storm doesn't wake Christ, but a touch or cry from his children does.

He is not indifferent to our need. He is always with us in the boat.

III. Christ Fashioned a Stillness

Rising and standing in the boat, as creator and ruler of all, with ultimate authority, he rebuked the wind and commanded the waves to be still, securing the safety of His disciples. When the storms come, we, too, are safe in Him.

Psalms 10:1, 17-18 Why, O LORD, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? ... You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.

The road to glory will not be easy, but greater is He Who is for us, than all that is against us. There is no storm in our lives which He cannot control. He reigns supreme. He will see us safe to the other side.