

Title: Miracle Worker, Part 2 (Mark 4:35-40)

Introduction: [Recap] So one morning back in the fall I was about to leave for work. And as my wife and I were getting our boys in the car, out of the corner of my eye I saw this thing crawl across our garage floor and go behind some boxes. So I say something to my wife and she's like don't worry about it, we need to get going. And I'm like that's easy for you to say. So we go ahead and leave. But the whole day I'm feeling kind of nervous about what I saw and even more nervous about what's going to happen when I get home. Because as much as I don't want to, I know I have to find out what this thing is and then get it out. So when I get home that afternoon, I put the car outside the garage to create some space. And to protect myself I grab some gardening gloves and a broom. Clearly I know what I'm doing, right? And since I have such a supportive wife, she's kind enough to watch me safely inside. Now I'm obviously a little on edge because I have no idea what this thing might try to do to me. But to get close to it, I decide to move some stuff near where it is. And as soon as I do, I see it run across the floor again. And I'm like "Oh...Here we go." [Act out]. So now I'm *really* nervous and honestly a bit scared. But I stand strong and push through the feelings. So I try moving the stuff again. But this time as I do, all of a sudden this massive rat comes running straight at me. Now I could lie to you guys about what happened next. But I'm going to be honest with you. I'm going to tell you the truth. And that's when this thing came sprinting towards me, I unapologetically screamed like a frightened little girl. I mean I was absolutely terrified. You can ask my wife. She was there losing respect for me the entire time. And as this wild animal charged me, in complete desperation I took my broom, swung it as hard as I could, and I yelled "Get outta here!" And somehow I hit this rat, knocking it off its course to end my life. And it ran out of the garage, up the street, and into a sewer. And as I walked back inside the victor, I held my head high. Thankful that the only thing I lost that day was my dignity.

Transition: But in my garage that afternoon, when I went toe to toe with death, I felt a very common emotion. **Fear.** Something we've all felt many times before, right? **Especially in our "too late" moments.** These difficult moments we talked about last week when something terrible happens and now we're stuck living with the outcome. **(1)** Like when your mom sits you down at home one weekend to tell you she's been diagnosed with cancer. **(2)** Or when you get an email from financial aid that says because of your grades this past semester, you've lost your scholarship. **(3)** Or when your dad walks into your room one night to let you know he can't do this anymore. He's tried so hard for too long to get this marriage to work but it just won't. So now your parents are getting a divorce. **We all know what it's like to be in these kind of moments.** In situations where something bad has happened and now we *fear* how things are going to play out.

Transition: And how we feel in these moments is how Jesus's disciples feel in our passage tonight. So let's jump into this story to see how they got in their "too late" moment and then what they do once they're in it.

[35] On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "**Let us go across to the other side.**" [36] And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.

Explanation: So Jesus had just spent all day teaching a huge crowd of people and now the dude is worn out. **So he tells the disciples to go across the sea of Galilee. Something as fishermen these guys would have done all the time.** But as they make their way across they encounter something unexpected.

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

Explanation: So as the disciples are sailing, out of nowhere a storm hits. And this isn't just any storm. This thing is big and dangerous. Because the Greek word used to describe it can also be translated **hurricane. So that's how crazy intense this thing is.** In fact, it's so intense we see their boat can't handle it. **The waves from it are so overwhelming that water just keeps pouring into the boat, causing it to sink.** And as this boat fills up more and more with water, the disciples become filled more and more with fear. Because no matter how hard these guys try, they can't keep the water out. So as each second passes, the disciples have to face this horrifying reality that they might not make it out of this thing alive. So in their desperation, they do what all good Christians do, **they turn to Jesus.** To their fearless leader who, if you remember, told them to sail across this sea. And who they know has the ability to get them out of this mess. But when they do, he's not around. Instead, he's a little preoccupied.

[38] **But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.**

Explanation: I mean how funny is this? But I'm guessing the disciples didn't see the humor here. Instead, they're feeling pretty salty about this. And we get that, right? Because just think how you would feel if you were where they are. In this place where your heart is pounding as you fight to stay alive because this hurricane-like storm is trying to kill you. And then in the middle of all of this scary situation, you see Jesus is catching z's in the back corner of the boat. **I'm not going to lie, I'd be in a salty mood too.** Pretty mad at Jesus because I've seen him do miracles to help so many other people, but right now he's not doing anything to help me. And honestly, I'd probably do what the disciples do next.

And they woke him and said to him, **“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”**

Explanation: Notice how at this point the disciples are so upset with Jesus, they don't even bother to ask him to help them. Instead, they just lay into him. And when they do, they make a very bold accusation. **They straight up accuse Jesus of not caring about them.** Because they take his sleeping as sign that he's not concerned. That's he's **indifferent** to the fact they're about to die. And that he doesn't want to help them even though they desperately need him too. **So as the disciples stand on this sinking boat, soaked and scared, they're calling Jesus out because they don't think he cares about them.**

Personal Connection: And in our “too late” moments when we're also full of fear because something bad is going on around us. We often feel this way too, don't we? Because like the disciples here, in those moments we also turn to the one we know can help us. Asking him to show up and get us out of this mess. **To do a miracle.** But even though we want and expect Jesus so badly to step up and help, **he doesn't. When we need him the most, he's not around. Instead, it's like he's off sleeping somewhere. Indifferent** about the fear that consumes us. **Apathetic** towards the very thing that's keeps us up at night. And when this happens we too start to get angry. **We also start to accuse him of not caring about us.** We think **(1)** God, do you not care that my mom might die of cancer? **(2)** God, do you not care that now I have no way to pay for school next year? **(3)** God, do you not care that my parents aren't going to be together anymore? **We totally get how the disciples feel on this boat, don't we?** Because like them, **we see God's absence as a sign of his indifference.** Since we don't see God helping us, we believe he doesn't care about what we're going through.

Transition: So when the disciples wake Jesus up, **this is where they are. This how they feel.** But as they sit there, waiting for Jesus to answer their question. He doesn't. Instead, he does this.

[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.

Explanation: This is such an incredible turn of events, isn't it? Because Jesus goes from sleeping to speaking. And when he does, this massive, hurricane like storm instantly it stops. **That's insane! And see, he doesn't just do a miracle to get them out of the storm.** That's probably what the disciples wanted him to do. Instead, he takes it up a notch and **he does a miracle to stop the storm.**

And based on the final verse of this passage (v. 41), the disciples didn't expect this to happen. Because this miracle really makes them really wonder who this guy is. **And he shows his disciples in a very powerful way that everything they thought about him was wrong.** Because by instantly stopping this storm, Jesus shows them just how much he cares about them.

Personal Connection: So in this story, the disciples make a mistake, don't they? They do something we also do when we think God doesn't care about us. **We mistake peace for indifference.** See, the disciples thought that Jesus sleeping was a sign of his **indifference**. But in reality, he was sleeping because he had **peace**. He knew everything was going to turn out fine. **Because even though everything was chaotic, it was still under his control.** So Jesus wasn't absent because he was indifferent. He was absent because he was **confident**. Confident things we're going to be okay. So he slept peacefully knowing there wasn't anything to fear. **But since the disciples mistook peace for indifference, they were afraid. And when we make this mistake, we are too. (1)** We fear what's going to happen to our relationship with our parents. **(2)** We fear what our life will be if we have to drop out of school. **(3)** We fear how everything is going to turn out with our mom. **But when we realize that God isn't indifferent about our situation, but that he has peace about it, that changes everything.** And as Jesus talks to the disciples for the first time, he says something to help them and us from making this same mistake again.

[40] He said to them, **“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”**

Explanation: Notice Jesus doesn't call out the disciples for thinking he didn't care about them. He doesn't shame them for how they acted. Instead, he just asks them some simple questions. **Where he essentially wants to know, “After all this time. After everything we've been through. Why do you still not trust me? Still not trust I care deeply about you. That I'm always doing what's best even if you can't see it. And that you never have to be afraid because if I'm not stressed about your situation, you shouldn't be either.”**

Gospel Intersection: And when **we mistake peace for indifference.** Jesus also doesn't shame us or call us out. He just wants to know our answer to that same question. **“After all this time and after everything you and I have been through. Why do you still not trust me?”** And if we're honest, we still don't trust Jesus because we don't believe he has us where we are for a good reason. We feel like instead we're in this bad situation because he's not concerned about us or he's just forgotten about us or he's wanting to get us back. **But the problem is the cross screams something completely different, doesn't it?**

Because the cross says Jesus wanted to die for you because he cares so deeply about you. And now he has in you where you are not because of how much he dislikes you. **But because of how much he loves you.** And how much he wants to grow you. To grow you to look more like him. Since God always does what's best for you, he's even using this difficult situation to shape your heart to look like his. **So that means if right now he's not worried or stressed, you shouldn't be either.** Because here's what's crazy about this story. This miracle Jesus did was actually completely unnecessary. They were all going to be fine. That's why Jesus was sleeping and not worrying. But since the disciples all freaked out, Jesus woke up and did something. But if they would have trusted him in this **"too late" moment** and remembered how much he cared about them, all those guys could have had peace even in the midst of this chaotic storm. **And if we choose to trust instead of being afraid, we can too.**

See, because of everything Jesus did for us at the cross, we can always trust what he's doing in our life right now. Even if it seems like he doesn't care about us. In every situation, we can have peace. No matter how bad it might be. No matter how big the storm. We can always have peace as we trust that God's in control and that he cares. **So like Jesus, you can sleep good tonight because you don't have anything to fear.** So even though I don't know what your facing right now, I do know that regardless of what it is, you can trust. You don't have to be afraid. **You can have peace about your situation because God does.** So let's not make the same mistake the disciples do who didn't have peace when they should have. So that means as you sit in this "too late" moment, asking for a miracle, you can trust God what God is doing. And you can know he isn't stressing about your situation so neither should you. **Instead, you can have peace about it because God does.**

Challenge: So in light of everything we've seen tonight, my challenge to you is to **trust. To trust God with your situation.** Whatever it might be. **Since God can always be trusted, peace is always possible.** In every situation. **And that peace is found in God's presence.** So right now if you're living in fear. Afraid of how things are going to turn out. **Find peace by choosing to trust God.** And see, this is how we're supposed to live in all of our "too late" moments. When the storm of life is massive and we feel like we're about to drown. **In those times when we're asking and waiting for a miracle, we can have peace.** Because Jesus cares and he's still in control. So wherever you find yourself tonight, **choose to trust God as you wait for a miracle.** Choose to have peace about your situation because God does. So tonight, ask him to overwhelm you with his presence. And we're all going to take some time to do this together.