

Summary

In this sermon from Mark 4:35-41, Pastor Mike explores the story of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee. He draws out three key observations: we see the storms of life, we see ourselves in the storms of life, and we see Jesus in the storms of life. The storm in the passage serves as a vivid picture of the sudden, overwhelming trials that all people face in a broken and fallen world. Just as the disciples were caught off guard and filled with fear and doubt, so too do we often struggle to trust Jesus when life's storms hit without warning. The central message of the sermon is that Jesus does not always deliver us from our storms, but He faithfully delivers us through them. Drawing on personal experience and the witness of Peter in 1 Peter 5:7, Pastor Mike reminds the congregation that Jesus is always present, never absent, and deeply caring. The disciples' question, "Who is this?" is answered clearly on the other side of the resurrection: Jesus is the Son of God, the Lord of all, who has authority over creation and who walks with His people through every storm they face.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before you today as a group of people who know what it is to face storms in life. We thank you that your Word is living and active, and that you have something specific for each of us today. As we open our hearts and minds to discuss what you have shown us in Mark 4, we ask that your Holy Spirit would guide our conversation. Help us to be honest, to be vulnerable, and to be open to what you want to teach us. May this time together draw us closer to you and to one another. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is the most memorable storm, whether a literal weather event or a surprising life disruption, that you have ever experienced, and what do you remember most about it?

Key Verses

- Mark 4:35-41
- Mark 4:40
- Psalm 34:18

- 1 Peter 5:7
- Matthew 11:28-29

Questions

- The sermon describes how storms in life often come suddenly and without warning, just like the storm in Mark 4. Can you think of a time when a storm in your life came unexpectedly? How did that sudden onset affect how you responded?
- The disciples, some of whom were experienced fishermen, were terrified by this storm. What does it tell us about the nature of life's storms that even seasoned, capable people can be completely overwhelmed by them?
- The disciples woke Jesus and asked, "Don't you care if we drown?" (Mark 4:38, NIV). Have you ever felt like God was asleep or unaware during a difficult season in your life? How did you work through that feeling?
- Pastor Mike pointed out that Jesus questioned the disciples not about the quantity of their faith but about the focus of their faith, asking, "Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:40, NIV). What is the difference between those two things, and why does it matter where our faith is directed?
- The sermon makes the distinction that Jesus does not always deliver us from storms, but He does deliver us through them. How does that truth change the way you approach prayer and trust during a difficult season?
- Peter was in the boat during the storm, crying out in fear, and yet years later he wrote, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7, NIV). What do you think happened in Peter's life and faith between those two moments? What can we learn from his journey?
- Pastor Mike shared a deeply personal story about losing his mother and how God brought peace in the middle of that storm. Has there been a moment in your own life when you experienced God's peace in the middle of a storm, even when the storm itself did not go away? What did that look like?
- The sermon closes with the question: Where do you go when the storms come? As a group, what are some practical and spiritual habits that help us run to Jesus rather than away from Him when life gets hard?

Life Application

This week, identify one storm you are currently facing or one area of anxiety that is weighing on you. Set aside intentional time each day to bring that specific burden to Jesus in prayer, trusting the promise of 1

Peter 5:7 (NIV): "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." Consider journaling what you sense God saying to you through that time. If you are not currently in a storm, use this week to memorize Mark 4:39 or Psalm 34:18 so that when a storm does come, God's Word is already written on your heart.

Key Takeaways

- Storms in life are real, sudden, and unavoidable in a fallen world, and they can overwhelm even the most capable and experienced among us.
- In the middle of our storms, we often respond like the disciples, with fear and doubt, but Jesus meets us with compassion rather than condemnation, calling us to refocus our faith on Him.
- Jesus has full authority over creation, as shown when He calmed the sea with a word, and that same authority is at work on behalf of those who trust Him today.
- Jesus does not always remove our storms, but He is always present within them, walking with us and delivering us through them rather than simply around them.
- We are not meant to face storms alone. The presence of Jesus and the community of the church are both gifts God provides to sustain us through the hardest seasons of life.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the truth of your Word and for the reminder that you are never absent, never distant, and never unaware of what we are going through. We thank you that you are the same Jesus who spoke to the wind and the waves and brought complete calm. We ask that you would speak that same peace into the storms each person in this group is facing right now. Help us to cast our anxieties on you, trusting that you care for us deeply. Strengthen our faith to be focused not on the size of the storm but on the greatness of who you are. And as we leave today, may we carry with us the confidence that you are with us always, even to the end of the age. We pray this in your powerful and loving name. Amen.