**THE CALMING OF THE STORM**

***The Winds and Waves Rebuked***

***Mark 4:35-41***

Sunday School Lesson 9

*The Miracles of Jesus*

03/10/2019

**Introduction:** This week’s lesson brings us back to another miracle performed by the Sea of Galilee. After the raising of the widow’s son, Jesus continued His teaching ministry. He spent time in the home of a Pharisee named Simon, teaching him the subject of forgiveness. He then travelled on throughout the region and was again confronted with a great multitude of people on the shores of Galilee. The Lord found a ship and used His preferred pulpit to teach the people the parable of the sower and the ground. The people were greatly convicted by this parable. Some even came to Jesus to pledge their life to follow Him. At the conclusion of the lesson, Jesus told His disciples that it was time to go to the other side of the sea. As the ships sailed through the evening light, Jesus and the disciples came up against a great storm. While the disciples panicked, Jesus slept. When the disciples finally woke Jesus, He effortlessly rebuked the winds and waves. The calming of the storm has a very clear message for the believer. We are supposed to have faith during the storms of life because the Lord has the power to overcome the storm. Jesus made this message perfectly clear to the disciples when He directly challenged them for their utter lack of faith in the midst of the storm. Since then, many messages and lessons have been taught with that thought in mind. Yet, there are also several subtle truths found in this story that provide us with valuable lessons to help us better understand and prepare for the storms of life.

1. THE CALMING OF THE STORM HELPS US UNDERSTAND THAT STORMS ARE A NATURAL OCCURRENCE FOR FISHERMEN. (MARK4:36-37; PSALM 107:23-31)
2. **Notice that fisherman should expect storms because they deal in great waters (Psalm 107:23-31).** As we read Psalm 107, it would almost seem like this passage was prophetic to the miracle that we are studying. David notes that those who are out on the sea are those who get to witness firsthand the power of God. That view is not without risk though. It puts the fishermen right in the middle of potential storms. It may seem safer to just stay home and do nothing, but then we would never get to witness the extant of the power of God! Power can be frightening. It can be dangerous. Yet, it is the most sought-after commodity throughout the whole world.
3. **Notice that the storm occurred while they were on their way to do more fishing (Mark 4:36-37).** As we saw from a previous lesson, Jesus referred to the disciples as fishers of men. Jesus and the disciples had spent all day fishing for men. They were going to the other side of the sea so that they could do more fishing. It was during this trip that they were confronted by the storm. We are in the midst of a spiritual battle. The more “fish” we try to catch the more the world fights back against us as fisherman. It should not surprise us that storms often occur right at the onset of a fishing trip.
4. THE CALMING OF THE STORM TELLS US THAT OUR FLESHLY VISION OFTEN MAKES THE STORM SEEM WORSE THAN IT REALLY IS. (MARK 4:36, LUKE 8:22)
5. **Notice that their fear was not sensible, considering Who they had on board (Luke 8:22).** It is interesting that these men were so afraid of this storm. After all, several of them had actually been fishermen before the Lord called them. It is very unlikely that this was the first time they had seen a storm while at sea. This may have been the biggest storm they had ever seen, though. Regardless, they had the Lord with them in the boat. Did they really think that they were all going to perish? That ran counter to everything that they had heard and seen. This was not how the Son of God was going to lay down His life. What do you suppose would have happened if they had not awoken Jesus?
6. **Notice that they were in the largest ship (Mark 4:36).** Don’t miss this nugget of information: they were not the only ship on the sea! There’s much that could be said about that. We must first notice how isolated we always feel when we are in the storm. All we hear from this story are the responses from the disciples on the ship with Christ. Yet, they were the safest of all of those out there! The people occupying the other ships were in smaller ships that would have been more susceptible to crashing waves and winds.
7. THE CALMING OF THE STORM REVEALS TO US THE DANGER OF WAITING UNTIL WE ARE IN JEOPARDY TO CALL UNTO THE LORD FOR HELP. (MARK 4:37-38; LUKE 8:23)
8. **Notice that their personal efforts were futile against the storm (Luke 8:23).** As the winds and waves got worse and worse, water continued to pour into the ship. The water did not fill the ship immediately. It happened throughout the course of the storm. What do you suppose the disciples were doing as the water came in? They were trying to dump it out. Yet, they could not keep up with the onslaught. It wasn’t until the ship was filled with water that they realized their efforts were wasted. Now that they were in jeopardy, they decided that it was time to wake Jesus up. Why did they wait so long to wake Him up? Wouldn’t it have made more sense to wake Him right when the storm started?
9. **Notice that they took out their frustration on the Lord and blamed Him for the storm (Mark 4:37-38).** When the disciples came to Jesus, they were in a panic. There is little doubt that the storm had greatly frustrated them. As they saw Jesus sleeping, it made them even more frustrated. How could He be so peaceful while they were panicking? They asked Him, “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” Their question was filled with accusation, yet all they had to do was wake Him up. Who was to blame?
10. THE CALMING OF THE STORM ENCOURAGES US THAT STORMS CAN END AS QUICKLY AS THEY BEGIN. (LUKE 8:23; MARK 4:39)
11. **Notice that a storm of wind came down (Luke 8:23).** Unfortunately, the Bible does not tell us which disciple was responsible for checking the weather on his smartphone before they set sail, but it may not have mattered anyways. The Sea of Galilee is known for its sudden and violent storms. When the wind comes over the eastern mountains and drops suddenly onto the sea, it can cause quite the storm. That’s how storms usually happen in our life. There’s peace one moment and then seemingly chaos the next.
12. **Notice that He stood and spoke, and the storm was gone (Mark 4:39).** The Bible paints us a picture of contrast in this story. We see the panic of the disciples compared to the peaceful rest of Jesus. Then, we see the chaos of the storm compared to the calmness when Jesus got involved. It was effortless for Him. He arose and rebuked the winds and waves. Just like that, it was over. If we are in a storm, we can take comfort in knowing how quickly the Lord can bring it to an end! It may seem like there is no way out, but that feeling can pass in the blink of an eye.
13. THE CALMING OF THE STORM SHOWS US THAT PEACE IS POSSIBLE DURING A STORM (MATTHEW 8:25-27)
14. **Notice that Jesus knew the storm was coming, yet He was able to sleep through it (Matthew 8:25).** When Jesus told the disciples to set sail, He already knew what would occur. The storm was certainly not a surprise to Him. How was He able to sleep knowing that there was a storm brewing? Simply, He knew the outcome would be okay. While we do not have the foreknowledge that God does, we do know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28) If we know the storms are coming but will pass, what reason do we have to fear?
15. **Notice that the Lord expected them to have peace during the storm (Matthew 8:26-27).** Jesus’ answer to His disciples was very pointed. He asked them, “Why are ye fearful? Where is your faith?” He also rebuked them by stating that they were of little faith. Peace in the storm only comes by faith in the storm. Sometimes, we go through a crisis and claim to have faith in God, yet we are a complete disaster emotionally and even physically. The Lord expects us to have peace. He gave us His Spirit to help us be comforted during the storms.
16. THE CALMING OF THE STORM REMINDS US THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WAITING FOR US ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORM.
17. **Notice that Jesus was immediately met by a man when He came off of the ship (Mark 5:1-2).** There was a possessed man in the country of the Gadarenes that had been waiting for Jesus’ arrival. The Bible says that the man *immediately* met the Lord when He stepped off of the ship. The Lord knew that this man was there. He was the reason that Jesus had come to the other shore. The man was hurting and oppressed by these demonic spirits. This made the challenge of the storm worth it. If the Lord had not come when He did, the man may not have been there to receive healing from his spiritual infirmity.
18. **Notice that Jesus went through the storm just for that one person (Mark 5:17-21).** As mentioned in the prior point, the possessed man was the reason for the Lord’s visit. What is interesting is that the man was the ONLY reason. After the cleansing, the people of that country were too afraid of Jesus. They asked Him to leave. After meeting again with the man whom He had healed, Jesus then journey back across the sea. It is wonderful to think that our Saviour went through the storm for just one person. Even if there is only one person waiting for you on the other side of the storm, it’s still worth the trouble!

**Conclusion:** None of us desire to go through storms in life. Simply, they are not enjoyable. Yet, they are a part of life, especially for a Christian. Instead of being dismayed by the storm, why don’t we determine to be thankful that we get to go through the sea of life with Christ in our ship. We can’t control the storms that come, as only God has that power. However, we can control how we deal with those storms. Let’s give them over to God and not get frustrated. Let’s recognize that the Devil makes them seem bigger than they are. Let’s remember that they can and will end. Let’s decide that the people waiting for us are worth it. Let’s just have peace in the storm!