

24/6

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Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
Mark 4.35-41 | March 22, 2020
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I. Introduction to this Study

This week we continue thinking together about the practice of Sabbath, in a series we're calling 24/6.

II. Connecting with One Another

When have you felt fear in the midst of faith? How are you doing this week?

III. Study the Text

a. **Read Mark 4.35.**

Jesus has spent the whole day teaching Jewish people (see **Mark 4.1-34**), but "the other side" of the Sea of Galilee – about five miles across, at this point – was not a Jewish area. Known as the Decapolis (literally "ten cities"), the majority of this area had been founded by Alexander the Great. As such, this "other side" was filled with "other people" who had "other" beliefs, customs, and language.

Why, then, do you think Jesus called his disciples to "go over to the other side"? And why at night, when the wind and waves could kick up out of nowhere!?

What do you think was Jesus' purpose!? And why do you think the disciples went?!

- b. In January, during our "Overboard" series through Jonah, we engaged the similarities between this scene and the Prodigal Prophet. As Warren Wiersbe concludes, "Jonah ended up in a storm because of his disobedience, but the disciples got into a storm because of their obedience to the Lord."

Have you ever gotten into a storm because of your obedience to God? What happened? How did you feel?

- c. Imagine what this must have felt like for the disciples.

What is your "other side"? Who are your "other people"? What would it take for you to follow Jesus to be with them? (Not physically, right now though!)

d. **Read Mark 4.36.**

Jesus and the disciples left abruptly, without getting dinner, without retrieving their cloaks. And Jesus had been teaching from a boat, all day.

How do you think Jesus was feeling? Why?

- e. **Read Mark 4.37-38.**



- f. First century Jews thought of the sea as a mysterious and dangerous place. And yet, storms were common on the Sea of Galilee, especially at night. Mark describes this storm as “great.”

Even with experienced fishermen in the boat, the disciples’ reaction was dramatic. What do they say? Why? Have you ever felt the same way?

- g. How, in the midst of the wind and waves, could Jesus sleep?

What does that tell us about Jesus’ trust in his disciples? What does that tell us about Jesus’ trust in God the Father?

Neither the whipping of the wind, nor the water of the waves, wake Jesus.

What wakes him? Why?

- h. **Read Mark 4.39.**

The Greek word for “get up” Mark uses is the same later used to declare the resurrection. Do you think that’s by chance? Or is it intentional foreshadowing? Why?

- i. Why do you think Mark uses the word “rebuke” for Jesus’ miraculous action?

Where do you see the dual nature – both humanity and divinity – of Jesus in these verses?

- j. Mark called the storm “great.” Now he does the same for calm.

What would it mean for you to experience calm in the midst of the wind and waves we are currently experiencing?

- k. **Read Mark 4.40.**

Jesus juxtaposes fear and faith. But is he criticizing their fear of the storm? Why or why not?

- l. **Read Mark 4.41.**

What prompted more fear, the storm or the Savior? Why!?

- m. What does it mean for you to have faith in Jesus in the midst of our anxiety over COVID-19?

IV. Pray

- a. Pray for an end to COVID-19 – that God would bring an end to the pandemic, whether miraculously or medicinally.

- b. Ask for God to empower and equip those responding on the front lines of this worldwide pandemic,

- c. Lift up Good Shepherd, that we would keep connected in the crisis, and find ways to invite all people into a Christ-centered life in God’s family.

