

6.24.18 In the Boat Together  
Mark 4:35–41

We continue our journey through Mark and read another story that is probably familiar to us. But there are many phrases that could catch our attention. Which one jumps out for you?

Is it:

“Let’s go across to the other side.”

Why? What is over there on that dark shore, with those menacing black clouds? Why do we have to go to the other side when there’s a storm brewing? Actually there are Gentiles on the other side, people who are different than us.

“They took Jesus with them, just as he was.”

Do they even know who Jesus was? We are only four chapters into Mark, and Jesus has been teaching, healing, and preaching. What does it mean just as he was? What does it mean Jesus was God in human form and God is far beyond our words and ideas?

“There were other boats with Him.”

I never noticed this before, but who was in the other boats, and what were they doing? Many boats were there in the storm. Other boats and people are in danger too and Jesus is not in their boat. We are all navigating the stormy and calm waters maybe in different boats but together.

“Don’t you care we are perishing?”

How often do we ask God don’t you care I have to go through this mess? This is a cry of fear and abandonment. When have you said help, where are you God? Do we expect Jesus to react as we would?

“And there was a dead calm.”

Not only did the wind and the waves stop roaring, but the disciples’ were stopped dead in their tracks with fear and amazement on their faces. Jesus was able to utter a word of peace in the midst of chaos.

“Who then is this?”

The disciples did not have a clue who Jesus was. Who is this who doesn’t even panic when the wind and the water threaten our lives?

The truth of “Jesus just as he is” is Jesus can not only calm storms in the midst of chaos, He also has the power to stir them up. If Jesus can take the chaos of our lives and tame it, then Jesus can also take what is tame in our lives and make it chaotic. Transformation is impossible without tumult. Change is unheard of without a period of spiritual seasickness. Our lives are full of unexpected twists and turns and waves of change. The Jesus who can calm the seas can also stir them up again. Jesus in this story is wild and powerful and unpredictable.

What about this passage touches you the most? That Jesus could control an uncontrollable force? That the disciples were astounded that Jesus could help them in the midst of their fear? That there were other boats and other people in the storm as well?

We are all in this together, no matter what boat we are in!

Think about it – Pray about it – Live it

*Bob*