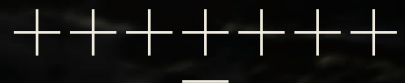


WEEK 4

THE WONDER OF POWER

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

"The disciples were absolutely terrified. 'Who is this man?' they asked each other. 'Even the wind and waves obey him.'" -Mark 4:41



Day 1: Monday

Scripture: *Mark 4:30-41*

WONDER AT THE POWER OF JESUS

In Mark 4, Jesus had just finished teaching in parables about the kingdom of God, illustrating how something small like a mustard seed could grow into something mighty. The disciples were a bit confused by Jesus' teaching, but they had already seen His power on display, so they followed him, quite literally, into a storm. As they sailed, the wind kicked up, waves began crashing over the boat, and fear gripped the disciples. They were terrified. Their first instinct was to wake Jesus and cry out for help.

The disciples trusted Jesus enough to follow Him into the boat, but their trust was still new and incomplete. They wanted to believe in His power, yet they had not fully grasped who He was. In the storm, their fear reveals not the absence of faith, but faith in its early stages; learning that trust does not mean fear disappears. It means learning to rest in His presence, even when questions remain, and even when we feel small. It means to wonder at His power, even when we don't yet understand.

Jesus responded with authority, commanding the wind and waves: *"Silence! Be still!"* Immediately, the storm ceased. The disciples were amazed and fearful, asking each other, *"Who is this man?"* (vs. 41). Their question reminds us that miracles often provoke awe and wonder rather than complete understanding. Faith grows as we see glimpses of God's power and presence, even if we don't yet grasp the whole picture.

Think of the mustard seed. Though tiny, it grows into something remarkable. It is the same with faith. It begins small, in the act of trusting that Jesus is with us, and it grows as we experience His power and presence in our lives. The disciples' partial faith grew through experience; they witnessed firsthand that Jesus had power over nature itself. Sometimes, our first step in faith is simply resting in His presence, noticing His authority, and letting the wonder grow in our hearts.

The invitation to "cross over" reminds us that faith is often about stepping into uncertainty with Jesus. The storm is real, the waves are high, yet His power is greater. When we follow Him, we see that the One who commands nature also has very real power in our lives.

Reflection

Identify one area of fear, worry, or uncertainty in your life. Invite Jesus into it: as you go through today, talk to Him about your fears. Imagine placing each worry into His hands by faith, trusting His power over the storm.

Day 2: Tuesday

Scripture: *Mark 4:35-41, Daniel 3:16-18, 2 Chronicles 20:12, John 16:31-33*

JESUS IS PRESENT IN OUR CHAOS AND SUFFERING

God is our refuge, even when He seems silent. The storms of life are very real: chaos, uncertainty, fear, or pain may crash around us. But like the disciples in the boat, we are never alone. Jesus is with us. His presence does not remove every wave or wind, but it can give us a calm heart in the storm, if we are willing to give our worry and anxiety to Him.

Jared C. Wilson, in his book *The Wonder-Working God*, says this about Jesus's presence with us in hard seasons.

"Jesus may come to your pity party, but he won't participate. He will sit by you, loving you, caring about you, and overseeing all of your troubles, but he won't for a second share in your anxiety unless you're trying to get rid of it. We tend to assume that a loving God would not let us suffer... Real, genuine, self-forgetful, self-abandoned faith in God... is the kind of faith that says, 'Though he slay me, I will hope in him' (Job 13:15). The kind of faith that believes our God will deliver us from the fiery furnace, but even if he doesn't, we will still keep from idolatry (Dan. 3:17-18). The kind of faith that says, 'We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you' (2 Chron. 20:12).

When Christ calls a man into the boat, he bids him give himself up for dead from the start... Thus, it is imperative that we have our theology straight before we even get in the boat... the bad things that happen to us... are not outside of his sovereignty, they are not outside of his plan. We may not know what God is doing in our suffering, but we can trust that he is doing something! Our God may take us through a fire, but we will come out refined. He may take us through a storm, but we will come out washed. He may ask us to take up our crosses in this life, but he will deliver us safe and sound for all eternity. The miracles that demonstrate Jesus's control of the natural world... reveal Christ as sovereign Lord, as master of the universe, as maker and therefore commander of the laws of nature. Jesus doesn't just walk around like he made the place. He rests like he does, too."

This should bring us real hope in our suffering and real peace in the middle of our chaos. Jesus is WITH us in it, we can rest in Him, we are not alone.

Reflection

In what ways might God be calling you to trust Him in the chaos rather than panic? How might this miracle begin to shape the way we pray or feel during the storms of life?

Day 3: Wednesday

Scripture: *Mark 4:35-41, Psalm 46*

BE STILL

The storm on the Sea of Galilee was sudden, fierce, and terrifying. The disciples, seasoned fishermen, were gripped with fear, shouting, *“Teacher, don’t you care that we’re going to drown?”* (Mark 4:38). Yet in the midst of the chaos, Jesus slept on a cushion. This simple detail signals both his human weariness and his absolute confidence in God’s authority over creation.

When they woke Him, He spoke two words: *“Be still!”* (Mark 4:39). The wind ceased. The waves calmed. Creation obeyed His voice. As Psalm 46 declares: *“Be still, and know that I am God”* (v. 10). Here, we see a profound truth: the same God who commanded the seas at creation, who parted the Red Sea, and who redeems His people in history, is present in our storms today.

Notice the contrast: the disciples panic; Jesus remains perfectly calm. The disciples’ fear reminds us of how easily we can fall into fear and anxiety when life feels out of control. Jesus’ power reminds us that the same voice that calmed the storm still speaks over our circumstances, calling us to trust, to pause, to rest in Him.

C.S. Lewis puts it beautifully: *“Each miracle writes for us in small letters something that God has already written, or will write someday, in letters almost too large to be noticed, across the whole canvas of Nature.”* When Jesus restores sight, health, or order, it is to restore things to how God intended creation to be and to point ahead to the ultimate restoration of all things when Jesus returns.

The stilling of the storm is both an invitation to awe and a subtle nudge to faith. It provokes the question the disciples asked in trembling wonder: *“Who is this man? Even the wind and waves obey him!”* (vs. 41). Our storms may not always be literal seas and wind, but we all face moments of fear, uncertainty, and chaos. The invitation is the same: pause, breathe, and remember who is in control. Even the forces of nature obey Him. Even the storms in our lives are not beyond His command. Faith is learning to rest in His presence amid fear, trusting that the One who calms the waters is also present in our hearts.

Reflection

“Be still.” Sit silently for 3 minutes. See if you begin to notice small signs of God’s presence with you. How does seeing Jesus’ authority over nature strengthen your faith?

Day 4: Thursday

Scripture: *Mark 4:35-41, Job 38:1-11, Psalm 104*

WHO IS THIS?

There are moments when fear reveals how small we feel, but they can also show us how big God truly is. The disciples were experienced fishermen who were very familiar with this body of water. They had survived storms on these waters before, but this one was different. This one made them feel inadequate and scared. When they wake Jesus, He speaks, not only to the storm, but to them: *Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?*" (v. 40) He rebukes the wind and the waves, and there is absolute calm and instant peace. No wonder they ask the only question that makes sense: *"Who is this man? Even the wind and waves obey him!"* (v. 41) This is similar to the questions that we see echoed in Job 38.

Psalm 104 helps us answer this question. It celebrates the God who "set the earth on its foundations" and still sustains creation moment by moment. As D. A. Carson notes, the psalm reminds us that "the Lord, who brought all things into existence, continues to maintain the order of that creation." This matters because in the Old Testament, it is God alone who stills the sea. When Jesus does what only God can do, He isn't just rescuing frightened disciples; He is revealing His divine identity. Jesus is showing that He reigns supreme over chaos, fear, and the forces of nature.

Craig Blomberg puts it this way: *"The miracle is meant to instill greater faith in Jesus as the Son of God... Jesus does not always still the storms of life, but He always has the power to preserve spiritually those who believe in Him in the midst of those storms."*

Understanding that Jesus is God means our faith is not anchored in an idea or example, but in the living Lord who has absolute authority over creation and over us. It means that when fear rises, we are not simply hoping Jesus will help; we are trusting the Sovereign God who cannot fail. To know who Jesus truly is transforms fear into worship and uncertainty into faith, because the God who rules the seas has chosen to be with us in the storm. This is an invitation to wonder, to trust in His power and provision, to follow Him even when we don't understand, to ask, *"Who is this Jesus I'm following?"*

Reflection

Spend time in nature today. Marvel at the work of the creator of the universe, who even the wind and waves obey. Ask Him to show you His glory in His creation.

Day 5: Friday

Scripture: *Mark 4:35-41, Isaiah 43:1-3, Hebrews 11:1*

FAITH AND FEAR

If we look closely in this story, we will notice that the disciples are much like us. When the storm rises, and the waves overwhelm the boat, fear takes over. We know Jesus is present and powerful, yet our fear often feels louder than our faith. Mark tells us that while the chaos churned around them, Jesus rested. When the disciples woke Him, their question wasn't really about the weather: *"Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"* (v. 38). Fear distorts what we believe about God, causing us to question both His care and His power.

Jesus speaks two rebukes in this passage. First, He rebukes the wind and the waves: *"Silence! Be still!"* Creation immediately obeys. Then He turns to His disciples and asks, *"Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"* (v. 40). From Jesus' perspective, they had already seen enough of His authority to trust Him. Hebrews 11:1 reminds us that *"faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* Faith doesn't wait for clarity or control; it settles into the nearness of Jesus and says, *"I don't fully understand this moment, but I know Who is here with me."*

This is where the mustard-seed faith we talked about at the beginning of the week matters. Jesus invites us into a growing faith: that starts small, is willing to be stretched, is still learning who Jesus is, and chooses to follow Him anyway. After the storm, the disciples experience a different kind of fear: one marked by awe, wonder, and reverence. The miracle doesn't resolve everything; it opens new questions. That is often how Jesus works, as He reveals Himself to us, we begin to realize how much more there is to know. Our faith grows not because the waters are shallow, but because God is faithful in the deep.

Jesus doesn't shame fearful disciples. He invites them into deeper faith. They were learning to trust His authority, respond to His power, and rely on His presence. The disciples' need for growing faith matters for what they were about to face, and it is essential for us today as well. Deeper faith carries us when storms of life threaten to take us down. Faith is not something we muster up; it is a gift that God grows in us as we respond to Him. Faith grows as we rest in Jesus, trusting that His presence in the boat matters more than the size of the waves and believing that the One who calms the sea is also the One who walks with us through the waters.

Reflection

Ask God to show you where you need to go deeper with Him. What might He be gently inviting you to trust Him with today? Where does fear feel louder than faith?

Day 6: Saturday

Reflection Day

REFLECTION NOTES AND QUESTIONS:

As we wrap up this week's study, re-read *Mark 4:35-41*. This week, we looked at the Wonder of Jesus' Power through the Calming of the Storm. Today let's sit in the **wonder that Jesus has the power to calm the chaos**. Open your heart to the wonderful things He shows us each day about how he can bring peace to the storms of life, and open yourself to the awe and wonder of Jesus' power each day.

Reflect on how these words shape our lives. Reflect/journal your thoughts on the following prompt:

- What does this miracle reveal about Jesus and how does this change the way I follow Him?
 - What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
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Day 7: Sunday

Rest Day

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

