

“Commander of Wind and Sea”

THE STARTING LINE: Life gets hard at times. Of course, you already knew that!
Good news, on condition!

This story begins with an invitation at the end of a long day of teaching parables to “a very large crowd”

Mark 4:35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."

NOTES:

→ **Mark 4:36-37** And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.

“...just as he was” ?

“And other boats were with him” ? But only his disciples had him really with them!

And then ... “a great windstorm arose”!

1) There was a time when the disciples were in great danger and it was Jesus who got them there!

This is a story about his authority.

And a story about the difference made by his presence.

2) When the storm was at its most dangerous, Jesus didn't seem to be noticing.

→ **Mark 4:38** But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.

Only they had him “with them” and it didn't seem to make any difference!

→ **Mark 4:38** ... And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

3) Jesus didn't seem to help until they asked him to.

He likes to be asked!

So does his father!

Psalm 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

James 4:2 ... You do not have, because you do not ask.

→ **Mark 4:39** And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

4) The hard time ended at the moment that Jesus told it to.

“rebuking the wind”; commanded the sea

There's nothing that needs fixing that he can't just fix! He is the Commander of Winds and Seas.

The Lord of every storm. The Master of the hard times.

“At his word” **Hebrews 1:3** ... he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

They had had a question for him

Mark 4:38 "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

The answer was “Yes”.

Now he had two questions for them...

→ **Mark 4:40** He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

5) Jesus questioned his disciples about their fear and their faith

He asked about their fear because it's the alternative to faith.

He asked about their faith because without faith they would perish (eternally)!

John 3:16 ... that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

At the end of the day (the night, actually), the disciples were left with one more question: to which they knew the answer!

→ **Mark 4:41** And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?"

Answer: He is the Commander of Wind and Sea. The Master and Commander of everything!

ACTIONS: It's best to get this figured out "in between storms"!

a) Have faith in the "sovereign kindness" of Jesus

Psalm 27:1-2 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Winds die down. Seas go calm. Evildoers, adversaries and foes stumble and fall.

So what are we afraid of? And if nothing, why not?

Psalm 27:13-14 I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

We don't know what he has planned for us, but he does, and we should know that he does.

A word to the rookies: *Brace yourself!*

Jeremiah 29:10-12 "For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. (Seventy years!)

b) Ask for his help He likes to be asked. Why is that?
Maybe because of what it accomplishes in us: we find him!

Jeremiah 29:13-14 You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, declares the Lord ... The real point of everything: that we find him!

c) Turn away from fear by staying focused on Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...