



## WEEK SEVEN

MARK 4:35-41

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# LIKE HE OWNS ALL CREATION

Mark's early chapters are really answering the question: "Who is Jesus, really?" Unlike John's Gospel, which starts by answering that explicitly, Mark's Gospel simply shows us the actions of Jesus. When those actions are interpreted in light of Mark's allusions to the Old Testament, a remarkable answer emerges. But for Jesus' first disciples, even after all they've seen up close and personal, it turns out they still have a lot to learn about who Jesus really is...

**READ MARK 4:35-41**

1. The first disciples of Jesus were life-long fishermen on this very same Sea of Galilee (Mark 1:16-20). If they feared for their lives, what kind of storm were they facing?

2. How do the disciples react to Jesus being asleep? (verse 38)

- Can you relate to how the disciples feel? How so?

3. How does Jesus calm the storm? (verse 39)

- Have we seen Jesus acting like this toward anyone or anything else in Mark so far?

**SLEEPING THROUGH THE STORM?**

It might seem bizarre that Jesus is happily snoozing through a ferocious, life-threatening storm! But this detail recalls the story of Jonah. Jonah fled from God on a foreign ship. So God brought judgement on the ship with a storm. Jonah was sleeping, but the sailors woke him, found out he was responsible, threw him overboard, and immediately God calmed the storm. The foreign sailors therefore praised the God of Israel as the Lord of all creation (Jonah 1:9,16). Perhaps we're meant to react the same way to Jesus?

PSALM 107

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1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe...

<sup>23</sup> Some went out on the sea in ships: they were merchants on the mighty waters.

<sup>24</sup> They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep.

<sup>25</sup> For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.

<sup>26</sup> They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away.

<sup>27</sup> They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end.

<sup>28</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress.

<sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.

<sup>30</sup> They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.

<sup>31</sup> Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

**4. Read Psalm 107 (sidebar). What similarities do you notice between this Psalm and Mark's story about Jesus?**

**5. The sea-storm rescue in Psalm 107 ends with gladness and thanksgiving. In contrast, how do the disciples react? (verses 40-41) Why would this be?**

**6. Comparing this story about Jesus to both Psalm 107 and Jonah 1 (sidebar on the previous page), what's the answer to the disciples' question in verse 41?**

*Last week we heard Jesus saying that “whoever has will be given more” (4:25). The disciples have Jesus with them, and so they're given more insight into who Jesus really is. Jesus isn't just the rightful king of Israel. He's the king of creation. He's the one who's word even the wind and waves obey. He's God himself, who became human to save us. Let's talk through some of the practical implications of that...*

7. Jesus has owner's rights over all creation, including our very lives. Is that frightening, or reassuring, or both? How so?

8. Even when it seemed Jesus didn't care, the disciples knew he was their only hope. What can we learn from that in our lives?

9. If even the wind and waves obey the word of Jesus, what should be your attitude to his word?

- What will that mean for you in practice?

10. In both Psalm 107 and Jonah 1, the right response to rescue is to thank the God who saved you. If Jesus has rescued you from sin, how could you show appropriate thanks?

*We've come to the end of our series on Mark 1-4. But obviously we haven't come to the end of Mark's Gospel. Hopefully we can continue reading Mark together next year, and like the disciples we may be surprised to learn even more about the real identity and authority of Jesus. What has been the most striking insight into Jesus that you've had from Mark 1-4? Share that with your group. Pray for each other that your knowledge of Jesus would shape your lives, for your good and for God's glory.*