

WEEK OF MAY 24, 2026

**5-Day Devotional
based on Sunday's message:**



Calming the Storm
Mark 4:35-41

Provided by



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Mark 4:35-41

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

Day 1: Faithful People Still Face Storms

Devotional

Following Jesus doesn't come with a guarantee of smooth sailing. The disciples learned this firsthand when they obeyed Christ's direct command to cross the lake, only to find themselves battling fierce winds and crashing waves. Their obedience didn't protect them from the storm - it actually led them straight into it. This reality can feel unsettling. We might assume that doing the right thing should shield us from hardship, but life doesn't work that way. Sometimes our greatest challenges come precisely when we're walking in obedience. The job loss happens after you've been faithful with your finances. The health crisis emerges when you're serving God wholeheartedly. The relationship struggles intensify when you're trying to love well. But here's what we must remember: storms don't indicate God's absence or displeasure. They're simply part of living in a broken world. What matters isn't avoiding every storm but knowing who is with us when the winds begin to howl. The disciples were exactly where Jesus told them to be, and that's exactly where we want to be too - in the center of His will, even when it's uncomfortable.

Bible Verse

That evening Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let's cross to the other side of the lake.' So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. - Mark 4:35-37

Reflection Question

How might your current challenges actually be evidence that you're walking in obedience rather than outside of God's will?

Quote

Faithful people still encounter storms. Following Jesus does not remove the hardship or the confusion or the fear in our lives.

Prayer

Lord, help me trust that storms don't mean I'm off course when I'm following You. Give me peace knowing that obedience sometimes leads through difficult waters, but You're always with me. Amen

Day 2: When God Seems Silent

Devotional

Picture the scene: waves crashing over the boat, water pouring in, experienced fishermen panicking - and Jesus is asleep. Not just resting, but sound asleep while His followers fear for their lives. Their desperate question reveals their confusion: "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" We've all been there. In the middle of our crisis, God seems absent. We pray, but heaven feels silent. We cry out but receive no immediate answer. Like the disciples, we begin to wonder if God truly cares about our situation. Fear has a way of distorting our perspective, making us question God's love when we need it most. But God's silence doesn't equal absence, and His delay doesn't mean indifference. Sometimes He allows us to experience our limitations, so we'll discover how desperately we need Him. The disciples were terrified while being perfectly safe in Christ's presence. Their destruction was never actually possible - not while Jesus remained in the boat with them. The same is true for us. Even when we can't sense His presence, He's there. Even when we can't hear His voice, He's working.

Bible Verse

But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" - Mark 4:37-38

Reflection Question

In what area of your life do you need to trust that God's silence doesn't mean He's absent or uncaring?

Quote

God's silence is not absence. He's still in control. Delay is not indifference.

Prayer

Father, when I can't sense Your presence, help me remember that You're still with me. Teach me to trust Your heart even when I can't see Your hand. Amen

Day 3: The Authority That Calms

Devotional

When Jesus finally responded to the storm, He didn't do what we might expect. He didn't pray for help or ask the Father to intervene. Instead, He spoke directly to the wind and waves with absolute authority: "Silence! Be still!" Immediately, the storm ceased and the lake became perfectly calm. This wasn't just a display of miracle power - it was a revelation of identity. Only the Creator has authority over creation. Only God can command the forces of nature with a word. The disciples' question captures their amazement: "Who is this man? Even the wind and waves obey him!" This same Jesus who calmed the storm is with you in your chaos today. He hasn't lost His authority over the circumstances that feel overwhelming. The financial pressure, the health concerns, the relationship conflicts - none of these are beyond His power to address. He may not always calm the external storm immediately, but He can always bring peace to the internal turmoil. When we recognize who is truly in control, even the most frightening situations begin to look different.

Bible Verse

'When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Silence! Be still!' Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. - Mark 4:39

He calmed the storm to a whisper and stilled the waves. - Psalm 107:29

Reflection Question

What area of your life needs to hear Jesus speak "Silence! Be still!" today?

Quote

Jesus doesn't pray for calm seas. He doesn't ask heaven for help, does he? He speaks directly to creation as the one possessing the authority over it.

Prayer

Jesus, You have authority over every storm in my life. Speak peace into my chaos and help me trust in Your power to bring calm. Amen

Day 4: Faith Greater Than Fear

Devotional

Faith isn't pretending that storms don't matter or that our problems are small. The disciples faced real danger - the waves were real, the water filling their boat was real, and their fear was legitimate. Faith doesn't deny reality; it recognizes that Jesus is greater than any storm we could face. Too often, we think faith means having no fear or doubt. But that's not what Scripture teaches. The disciples were afraid, and Jesus didn't condemn them for their fear. Instead, He gently asked, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" He was pointing them toward a deeper trust - not the absence of fear, but faith that's greater than fear. Storms have a way of revealing what we trust most. Sometimes God allows the waves to grow large enough that we finally realize Jesus is our only true refuge. This doesn't mean Christians never suffer, but it means storms never have the final authority in our lives. Only Jesus has the final word. When we understand who is in the boat with us, even the most overwhelming circumstances begin to look different.

Bible Verse

'When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. 40 Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" - Mark 4:39-40

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.

- Romans 8:38

Reflection Question

What would change in your current situation if you truly believed that Jesus is greater than any storm you're facing?

Quote

Faith is not pretending that storms are small or don't matter. Faith is recognizing that Jesus is greater than any storm that could head our way.

Prayer

Lord, increase my faith to be greater than my fear. Help me trust that You are bigger than any storm I could ever face. Amen

Day 5: From Fear to Awe

Devotional

The disciples began that night afraid of the storm. They ended it in awe of Christ. What started as terror over their circumstances transformed into wonder at who was with them. This is the journey faith takes us on - from focusing on our problems to marveling at our Savior. Once you realize who is in the boat with you, everything changes. The same Jesus who spoke creation into existence, who holds the universe together by His word, who conquered death itself - He's with you in your struggle. He's not just observing from a distance; He's right there in the middle of your mess. This doesn't mean your problems disappear overnight, but it means they're no longer the biggest thing in your life. When we shift our gaze from the chaos to Christ, we discover that He's been in control all along. The storm that seemed so threatening becomes an opportunity to witness His power. The crisis that felt overwhelming becomes a chance to experience His peace. We're in His boat, and that changes everything about how we face life's storms. Being in "Jesus' boat" also invites us to reach out to those being tossed in the sea of life, inviting them into "Jesus' boat" as well.

Bible Verse

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

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. - Matthew 28:19-20

Reflection Question

How can you shift your focus from your current storm to the One who has authority over it?

Quote

Once you realize who is in the boat with you, even the storms of life begin to look different.

Prayer

Jesus, help me move from fear to awe as I remember who You are. Thank You for being with me always, especially in life's storms. Amen