

2025-09-28

Ask the Right Questions

Mark 4:35-41

I have in my possession a card with the picture of the transport ship my mom, my two older brothers and I traveled on when we returned to the United States from Japan. It was the USNS General Edwin D. Patrick (TAP-124). My mother did not address this card to a specific person. I assume it was written and sent to her parents. It is dated March 4, 1958. My mom writes, “Hi! This is the ship we sailed on. Pretty nice. We’ve had a real nice trip. Only 2 or 3 days of real rough weather. I was pretty sea sick the first 2 or 3 days but got better and really enjoyed our trip. Danny (this is me) was sick one day but **everyone else was fine the whole trip.**” My mom goes on to write that we were docking the next day and would be boarding a plane at midnight to fly to St. Louis, MO. I do not remember the trip. I was only 13½ months old. Dale was 4 years old and Doug was 3 years old. My mom herself was only 23 years old at the time. My dad had already returned to the States. It was a 11–12-day voyage across the Pacific Ocean from what I can figure. I am sure my mom had her hands full, especially those days she was sea sick. I do remember my mom telling us that she had to put Dale in a harness, like a dog with a leash because he kept running off. The ocean can get very rough at times. Lots of people get sea sick and have trouble sleeping during rough seas. In our scripture today we find Jesus sleeping on a boat during a violent storm.

Mark 4:35 “*On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, ‘Let us cross over to the other side.’*” That particular day had started in 3:20 when Jesus and His disciples were at Peter’s house. The crowd demanded so much of Jesus’ attention that Jesus and His disciples did not have enough time to eat breakfast. Then the scribes who had come all the way from Jerusalem to Capernaum accused Him of being demon possessed. They thought Jesus did His miracles with the power of Satan. That is a crazy thought. During this discussion, His own family arrived. They thought Jesus was “*out of His mind*” and wanted to remove Him away from before the crowds (3:21). By the afternoon Jesus and His disciples had moved to the shore of the Sea of Galilee with the crowd following Him. There He told them the parable of the Sower and many other parables. Later in the day, as the crowd dispersed, Jesus explained to those who remained behind the meaning of all the parables.

Now it was evening. Jesus is exhausted. He has had a very busy and emotional day. In order to get a break from the crowd and all the craziness, Jesus told the disciples, “*Let us cross over to the other side.*” Maybe there will be some relief on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee. Do you think, since Jesus made this statement, that there

was any chance at all that Jesus and those with Him will not make it across the lake? Do you think that Jesus and all His disciples could perish during a violent storm in the middle of the night in the Sea of Galilee leaving no trace of God's redemption for mankind? I think not! The disciples should have some confidence, some faith in Jesus. They have seen His miraculous powers. He has cured people from all types of diseases. He has healed lots of people of their deformities. He has cast out numerous demons. They have heard the demons cry out, "*You are the Son of God*" (Mark 1:24 / 3:11). He has even forgiven a man of his sins (2:10). Everything obeys Jesus!

Verse 36 "*Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.*" I want you to notice the words, "*they took Him.*" The idea of this Greek word means that the disciples were **taking Jesus under their care**. They were going to be responsible for Him so that He could get some much-needed rest. Yes, Jesus was subject to the needs of His human body. He got tired. He got hungry. The disciples took the exhausted Jesus just as He was, exhausted, under their care. The twelve, along with Jesus got into a regular sized boat. Mark goes into more details than Matthew (8:23-27) and Luke (8:22-25). Mark mentions that there were other smaller boats, dinghies with more disciples following along. Those smaller boats would not fare so well in a violent storm.

Verse 37 "*And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.*" This is one of those unexpected storms that can move in over the Sea of Galilee. These disciples could not pull out their cell phones and check the weather before they left or how long the storm would last. Our technology has gotten more accurate lately. During choir practice on Friday, September 26, 2025 a storm rolled through Sun City. It poured and hailed for 15-20 minutes. We stopped practicing so that we could watch the storm. People were starting to get nervous about flooding with all the hail and heavy downpour. I checked my phone and the radar showed that by 11:00 a.m. the storm will be over, but who can believe the weatherman. It was hard for some people to relax while the storm raged on. At 10 minutes to 11:00 a.m. the storm began to stop and we were able to get to our vehicles without getting drenched. By 11:00 a.m. there were some blue skies in the south. I would not want to be on a lake in a storm like the one we had Friday. Jesus and His disciple were. The wind and the waves were so violent that the boats were taking on water, more water than they could bail out. Things were getting dangerous. The waves and wind were rocking the boat more than usual. The disciples, some being fishermen, began to get worried for their lives.

Verse 38 "*But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?'*" Jesus must have been

totally exhausted to be able to sleep through this storm. Jesus was not in some cabin. He may have been partially under a platform to give Him some protection. But He would still be getting drenched like everyone else along with experiencing the violent pitching of the boat by with wind and waves. The disciples did let Jesus use one of the seat cushions that they had on board to put His head on for some comfort. Years ago, people did discover what they believed to be a typical fishing boat from the 1st century A.D. It is called the Jesus Boat. You can find it on the internet and learn of its discovery. The disciples were so concerned for their lives that they woke Jesus up and asked Him, *“Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”* This is not the right question to ask. Jesus is asleep. **He is supposed to be in their care.** He has already told them about going to the other side of the lake, knowing that they will make it. These disciples are with Jesus. Why are they worried? The disciple realize that they cannot care for themselves let alone care for Jesus, the Messiah. Of course, Jesus cares for all the disciples. He has shown that He cares for all people. He cured and healed countless people and cast out demons from numerous others. But **what can Jesus do in a violent storm?** What would be a better question for the disciples to ask Jesus? Since we know Jesus cares for them, they could say, Jesus we are afraid. Can you calm our fears?

Verse 39 *“Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’ And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.”* When you see the word “Peace” you may think that Jesus said “Shalom.” He did not. Jesus, in a loud controlled command said, **Be quiet! Be still!** And in an instant, it changed from a violent storm to complete calm and quiet. One command was for the wind. The other command was for the sea. Both the wind and the sea obeyed Him immediately. Now the disciples were going to have to put out their oars and row to shore. They may have miles to go. After a while of rowing, I can imagine the disciples thinking or talking among themselves, do you think we can ask Jesus to tell the winds to have a soft breeze in the right direction of course, so we don’t have to work so hard?

Verse 40 *“But He said to them, ‘Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?’”* Jesus asked two right questions of the disciples. After He asked them these two questions and making eye contact with everyone, I imagine that Jesus laid back down in the boat and went to sleep again. Why were the disciples so afraid? The evidence was that they were in a violent storm in the middle of a lake. Their boat was taking on too much water. They thought they could die. This would be a normal fear. Yet, Jesus asked them, *“Why are you so fearful?”* The other evidence was that Jesus was with them. The God of all creation, who cares for His people is with them. There is no need for them to be afraid. The lesson is, **when Jesus is with you, you do not need to be afraid.** We are to **Trust in the Lord.** The second question Jesus

asked them was “*How is it that you have no faith?*” Jesus did not say they had little faith. **He said to them they had no faith.** Jesus had told them they were going to the other side of the lake. They had seen Jesus do countless miracles. Don’t they believe what He says. Don’t they believe Jesus is the Messiah. Do they think that God would let His Messiah and all of His disciples perish in a violent storm in the middle of the Sea of Galilee? The disciples should know that Jesus cared for them and was in control of the situation even when He was sleeping. Yet, from their first question, “*Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?*” It seems that there was a total lack of faith among the disciples when they were in this very desperate and dangerous situation.

Verse 41 “*And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, ‘Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!’*” The disciples’ second question was, “*Who can this be?*” This is the right question. Who is Jesus? Our eternity is based on believing correctly on who Jesus is (John 8:24). The disciples are learning that Jesus is God and **everything** obeys Him. Now, if only **everyone** would obey Him. It is easy to trust Jesus and follow Him when everything goes our way. But, when difficulties come, when suffering comes, when hardships come will we still trust and follow Jesus? God wants to conform us into His image. God wants men and women who will be obedient to Him just like Jesus was obedient to the Father. Though Jesus was the Son of God, He learned obedience by the things He suffered (Hebrews 5:8). Learn to obey God. Know His will. Do His will. Be filled with the Spirit of God and produce His fruit. “*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control*” (Galatians 5:22-23). When you produce these towards people, they should be curious about your life.

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Our mission statement: **Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ;
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Join us for worship every Sunday at:

Emmanuel Baptist Church of Sun City
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Questions to ask yourself: Am I afraid? Why? Do I believe who Jesus is?

How does my belief in Jesus change me? Am I learning to be obedient to God?

Am I producing the fruit of the Spirit? What do I produce the best?

Actions to take: Do a Bible study on not fearing. Read at Isaiah 12:1-6 / 44:6-8 / Psalm 27:1 / 56:3-4, 11 / Matthew 10:27-28 and Luke 12:4-7 / John 14:27 / 2 Timothy 1:7 / 1 John 4:18