

The Raging Storm

Jesus Is Lord

Mark 4:35-41

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

EXPLORING THE SCRIPTURE

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' 39 He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' 41 And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

We continue to be guided in this series by the proclamation that Jesus is Lord. Interruptions, uncertainty, and divisiveness continue to take a toll on each of our lives. This week, we relate to the disciples' experience in the boat with Jesus during the storm. **Consider all the emotions they were likely feeling as the storm came upon them—*anxiety, fear, hopelessness, despair.* To what emotions do you most closely relate right now?**

In [Rembrandt's painting](#) depicting this scene, we can see the different responses among those in the boat. And including his self-portrait within, Rembrandt seems to be asking us, "how will you respond to the storms of life?" **What have you learned this year about how you react and respond to change?**

The disciples no doubt wondered why Jesus allowed the storm to happen, and why He remained so calm. Proclaiming that Jesus is Lord allows us to move beyond asking **why** things happen. Instead, it is a deliberate act to claim the **presence** of God in our lives. Jesus promised to be present with them as he taught, shaped, and molded them into his disciples. **Where have you been most aware of God's presence? How can you ask God to help you see Him more clearly as you learn from Him?**

This passage also shows us the **power** of God at work; unshaken as He calms the wind and the waves. The disciples realized they would be shaped, rather than destroyed, by the storms of life. **How do you respond to the declaration that because of God's presence and power in our lives, difficult times are not the end of us?**

This week, we are invited to practice that Jesus is Lord by starting our day reading at least five minutes from one of the gospels. **Make note of how your week is impacted through this practice. Pay attention to your emotions, your hopefulness, your patience, your ability to love others.**

Heavenly Father, your power and presence are beyond anything we can conceive. We praise you for these truths that move us beyond the "whys" of life. Strengthen us this week as we practice You as the Lord of our lives. Brighten our light for others and sharpen and refine us through your example and teachings. We trust in this season of difficulty that You are making all things new and we love You. Amen.