

## Week of Mar 3, 2019 — Focus: Mark 4:35-41

### Introduction/Ice-breaker

This current sermon series is built around the idea of our view of Jesus coming into *focus* more and more. As an intro to the discussion, can anyone share an experience where they *thought* they knew someone (preconceived notions, surface judgement, believing other's opinions, etc) and then truly got to know them in a completely different light?

### Scripture/Sermon Discussion

In speaking to the context of this passage, Pastor Joshua pointed to Mark 1:1; 2:5-7; 3:5, and then in this passage, 4:39-41.

- What do these verses show us about Jesus *overall*?
- What do they show us about Jesus *specifically*?

Re-read Mark 4:35-41 as a group.

- What was Jesus doing prior to this experience on the boat?
- Why would he *leave* the crowd (v. 36)? Who was he with now?
- Why would Jesus be sleeping / stay asleep in a storm? What are the possibilities? (See Psalm 4:8, Ecclesiastes 5:12)
- What was the problem with the disciples questioning of Jesus? What does this say about their belief about him?
- What do you think is the overall point of this account? Why would Mark include it in his gospel?

Great: Wind, Calm, Fear

- Pastor Joshua noted the repetition of the word “great” in 4:37, 39, 41 (ESV) as it related to the windstorm, the calm, and the disciples’ fear. What can we learn from this as it relates to Jesus? In other words, how great is *he*?

Fear

- How did the disciples’ fear shift from 4:38 to 4:41?
- Should we fear Jesus just as the disciples did? Why or why not? (See also: 1 Jn 4:18, Isaiah 6:1-5)

## Application

### View of Jesus

Mark stated who Jesus was at the beginning of his Gospel (1:1). After that point, he paints a picture of who Jesus is and shows the various responses to him (recall the various soils of 4:1-20). This week's passage ends with a question, "Who then is this?" The answer is somewhat obvious to us by now: Jesus is God Almighty—our good and powerful God. The bigger question is, do you believe it?

- How does your life speak to your level of belief in *God's goodness* and *God's power*? Cite specific examples.

### Storms of Life

What "storms" have there been in your life? Are you going through a storm right now?

- Have you brought this to Jesus in prayer?
- If so, is your response more like the leper in 1:40 *or* the disciples in 4:38?
- How can that change? Bring up suggestions within the group for how to grow in our trust of God.
- Can the group support you in any way?

## Prayer

- Pray for a greater awareness of God's goodness and power in your lives
- Pray for the specific "storms" that each other are facing. Ask for God's goodness and power to be made evident in them and for his kingdom to grow through them
- Pray that our church and people of Maple Ridge would see Jesus clearly (for eyes of faith)