

🚩 Almost Shipwrecked

Mark 4:35-41

It all begins with instructions from Jesus...

(as we heard last week, he's the smartest of all dudes)

John 14:15

If you love me, you will obey what I command.

1 John 5:3

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome

They left the crowd behind... sometimes, that's exactly what we need to do too.

Proverbs 13:20

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.

1 Corinthians 15:33-34

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." **34** Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning;

They brought Jesus along... we need to also keep this in mind in our daily lives. The truth is, he's already there with us, but we need to be more mindful of his presence.

Lois Blanchard Eades...

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two -

If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do.

Oh, I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest,

And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best,

And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have him there -

That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door

With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor?

Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?

Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been?

Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard?

And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word?

*Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder - if the Savior spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?*

*Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read,
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go?
Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so?*

*Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.*

A furious squall came up; waves; nearly swamped... life happens to us all.

☞ Storms will come.

Isaiah 43:2 says, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

It doesn't say "if," but "when." Storms will happen. It's inevitable and unavoidable. But God still reminds us that He will be with us in the midst of it all. Daniel still faced the lions. Joseph was still thrown in prison. Job still lost everything. The disciples still faced persecution. Being a believer doesn't mean we will be kept from every hard circumstance, but that He will be with us in it all.

Isaiah 59:19 says, "...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him."

The enemy will try to wreak havoc in our lives. He loves disaster. He loves it when we struggle. His whole aim is to steal, kill, and destroy. Often it feels that when a few hard things start happening in life, all chaos breaks loose. It's hard to get control. We can end up feeling abandoned and alone. Yet God's Word reminds us that we never fight alone.

He will not leave us to ourselves to pick up the broken pieces of hard times. God Himself will fight for us no matter what we face.

The disciples questioned the Lord, “don’t you care?” Sometimes we react the same way when life hits us hard.

Luke describes a storm he and Paul faced in Acts 27. In the situation, Paul warned them that there would be great loss and disaster. But they didn’t listen. They got a nice breeze and thought all was good, but soon it was an overwhelming storm. They tried various ways to save the ship, but ultimately failed. The sailors on Paul's ship took some actions that made things worse. We tend to do some of the same things when we find ourselves ☞ in a storm. Let's look at **some of the ways we sink our own ship**.

☞ **By making hasty decisions.** In Acts 27, since a lot of time had been lost the sailors felt they had to do something. If you're in the middle of a decision, wait on God. If you feel something pushing you, pressuring you to decide, it’s not likely to be God. He leads and He guides, but He doesn't shove.

☞ **By depending on worldly wisdom** rather than godly wisdom. The captain and owner of the ship believed each other instead of Paul. They sort of told each other what they wanted to hear. Don't go to the people of this world and ask them what to do. Seek a godly counselor — one that bases their counsel on the Word of God.

☞ **By taking the easy way out.** Because the harbor wasn't up to their standards, they decided to depart hastily. When they made their decision, it was based on what would be easy. Almost always you'll find trouble this way! Sometimes, we're called upon to endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

☞ **By following the crowd.** There was a crowd on that boat. When they took a vote, Paul was outvoted. They said, "Let's sail." But if you think about it, often the majority is wrong. Just because everybody says it, doesn’t mean it's right.

☞ **By depending on circumstances.** They said, "The sun is shining, the sea is calm, and the wind is blowing in our direction; it must be the right thing." There are a lot of people who are led by circumstances and say, "Lord, it must be Your will. It looks good." But that soothing south wind may turn into a horrible, ferocious storm. Now, God may use circumstances to move us, but that better not be all you’re relying on.

Now, here in Mark, even though the disciples had the wrong idea, thinking that Jesus didn’t care, at least they did the right thing by turning to him for help.

☞ **But Jesus was sleeping.** He wasn't worked up over the squall. **He was at rest.** Not only that, but he got up, rebuked the wind and waves and said, "Quiet! Be still!" And the wind died down and became completely calm.

Psalm 20:10 says, "The Lord sits enthroned over the flood"

☞ Such a great reminder that God is still all-powerful. **He's still in control.** He understands what concerns us. We may feel overwhelmed, like we're drowning in all the struggles, and it's too much to bear. We may be knee-deep in hurt, wading through the mess of it all. But, don't doubt for a minute whether he's there. He's over every trouble we face, He's with us in each trial. We do not face it alone. Ever.

Jesus wondered why they were afraid and questioned their faith. The opposite of faith is not doubt; rather, it's unbelief. The disciples' fear in their condition revealed unbelief in their savior's capability. 1 John 4:18 says, "perfect love drives out fear." **When we really ☞ understand and believe that God loves us and always has our best in mind, then we have no need to fear.** We might not like the storms of life we have to face, but we can trust the Lord through them. We learned this week at VBS...

☞ **When you're lonely Jesus rescues! When you worry Jesus rescues! When you struggle Jesus rescues! When you do wrong Jesus rescues! When you're powerless Jesus rescues!**

Hear the Word of the Lord about his rescuing ability...

Luke 1:69-75

...rescue us from the hand of our enemies

Romans 7:21-25

Regarding struggling with sin ...rescue me from this body of death

Galatians 1:3-4

...rescue us from the present evil age

Colossians 1:13-14

... rescued us from the dominion of darkness

2 Peter 2:9

the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials

So, Jesus calmed the storm... **Finally, the disciples were terrified** when they saw the power of God displayed in the calming of the storm. Perhaps this is where the disciples should have started. They should have had a stronger fear of the Savior than of the storm. That would have made their faith more firm.

--Oswald Chambers... The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.

Fear of God is interesting... some say it simply means reverence, but it's more than that. Now, it's not the extreme kind of fear that has you quaking in your boots unable to move a muscle. I think it's somewhere in between. It's such a respect and awe of God that you fear his disappointment and his discipline. It's also an understanding of his authority to inflict punishment if needed. When I was a kid I had more than simple reverential fear of my dad. I was literally afraid of being punished by him. That was balanced with an understanding of his love for me, but it was fear nonetheless. When the disciples saw his power over the storm it literally put fear in their hearts.

☞ Listen to the Word of God regarding the **fear of the Lord**...

☞ **Psalms 111:10**

The fear of the Lord is **the beginning of wisdom**;

☞ **Proverbs 1:7**

The fear of the Lord is **the beginning of knowledge**,

☞ **Proverbs 10:27**

The fear of the Lord **adds length to life**

☞ **Proverbs 14:27**

The fear of the Lord **is a fountain of life**

☞ **Proverbs 16:6**

through the fear of the Lord a man **avoids evil**.

☞ **Proverbs 22:4**

Humility and the fear of the Lord **bring wealth and honor and life**.

☞ **Shipwrecked or not, keep the faith! Don't sink your own ship. Turn to God. Keep your fear of the Lord! Jesus is with you! He's in control! Jesus rescues!**