

35 On that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, “Let’s go over to the other side.” 36 After leaving the crowd behind, the disciples took him along in the boat, just as he was. Other small boats also followed him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves were splashing into the boat, so that the boat was quickly filling up. 38 Jesus himself was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. They woke him and said, “Teacher, don’t you care that we are about to drown?” 39 Then he got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” The wind stopped, and there was a great calm. 40 He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still lack faith?” 41 They were filled with awe and said to one another, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few miles up HWY 60 a few families lost everything in the Rose Fire. A baby is injured and a home burns down in west Surprise a few weeks ago because of the violent actions of a violent man.

When such destruction is far away in some other corner of our nation, it can make us wince, but it make not make us shudder to our core. We don’t like it, but we rationalize that incidents happen. When it is in our backyard, our community, we shudder. It hits close to home. We think, *“I could easily be caught in a dangerous situation due to fire, crime, bad weather, etc.”* The difficulty is not that bad things happen. We expect that. It is when the situation is completely out of our control and we are terrified. We could lose everything, we could die. The Lord cares and wants to help us. Jesus’ disciples were caught in a storm and they couldn’t do anything. They ask a question that we can understand, **“Jesus, Don’t You Care About Us?”** We have an answer to that question in Mark 4. The answer is, **“Yes, I do.”** The answer will help us in the storms of life.

1. He cares enough to allow opportunities for us to grow in faith.

Jesus did not calm the storm right away. Why? Didn’t he care? Absolutely, everything he does or doesn’t do is because he cares. How is he caring by letting the storm rage? The disciples needed to grow in their faith

and the storm provides an unusual opportunity for them to grow in their trust of the Lord.

A. **“Why are you so afraid?”** He exposes our weak faith.

1. We trust him when things are good. They had seen Jesus heal others, but now they were the ones in trouble. It was serious. The disciples weak faith was exposed with the phrase, **“Don’t you care.”** This is not good for us. We need to trust the Lord. This is what he wants.

2. **God cares.** Our sinful minds forget, panic, doubt. He did not abandon them. He shows he cares about their weakness. **“Why are you so afraid?”** They needed to understand. God had Jesus and the disciples on a mission. He was not going to let them die. They did not need to be afraid. This immediately begins to help their faith.

B. **“Do you still lack faith?”** The goal is to have a stronger and stronger faith. God works for this.

1. The big and not so big storms of life happen. The big ones are the hardest. Job was fine initially with the catastrophe’s around him. He finally broke down and questioned the Lord. God used this situation to build his faith. St. Paul had been through a lot by the time we get to Acts 27. His experienced and mature faith shined during and beyond the shipwreck.

2. **God cares.** The disciples had seen Jesus care before. They go to him not just in panic, but out of instinct and hope. Jesus does not disappoint. He arose from his nap. He responded to the situation. We can’t always see Jesus rising and going into action, but we can trust that he does do this for us.

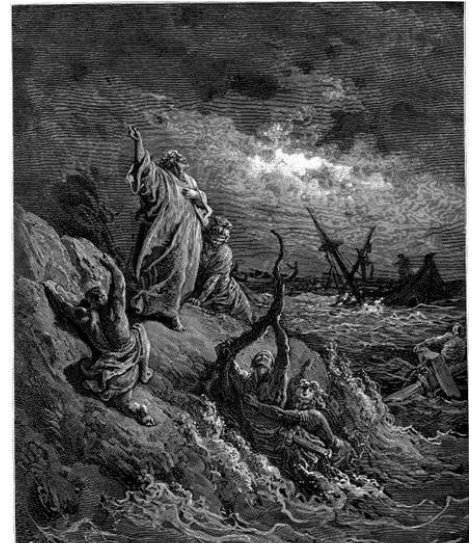
C. Mark 4 reminds of the blessings of being close and having a strong connection to Jesus. He helps us with our faith.

1. He uses the storms of life to show our weakness. He shows us the disciples. We need to see that. We need to confess our weakness and humbly accept that we need help.

2. Our caring Lord, first and foremost forgives our lack of trust. He gives us reason to trust him from Scripture and from life experiences. Quote: 1 Peter 5:7... Jesus cares!

2. He cares enough to do everything to save us.

It is amazing what God is willing to do. He was willing to wreck an entire ship to accomplish his good and gracious work. Why would God wreck an entire ship? It allowed St. Paul an unscheduled missionary stop on the Island of Malta. We are told he healed people and prayed over them. It does not say, but we can be sure he shared the name of Jesus. After all, in his name people were being healed. The Lord always has good in mind when he brings along the storms of life.



The Shipwreck of Acts 27 depicted.

Jesus didn't seem like he was doing much in the storm and the boat. This was something they needed to learn. Jesus cares and he was willing to do everything to save us. A. We say, **“Don't you care.”** But Jesus answers **“I do care.”** He cares about our spiritual situation. The storm outside wasn't the only thing they needed saving from. There was a storm inside. They were about to die physically. They may have seen the storm as a judgement of God. *“He is going to wipe us out and give Jesus a new batch of disciples. We aren't any good.”* Jesus was ready to do everything to save their soul.

1. We are more than weak at times. We doubt and get angry with God. We sit in our corner and refuse to pray. Left to ourselves we fall away. Look at disciples in Gethsemane where they deserted Jesus. Drastic measures are called for.

2. Jesus not only exposes our weakness and sin. He forgives sin. He didn't look for new disciples. He continued to teach them. They did grow through forgiveness and clinging to his promises. Many years later Peter would right, **“By his great mercy he gave us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”** (1 Peter 1:3)

B. **The wind stopped, and there was a great calm.** Jesus shows he is in control.

1. He calmed the storm and made sure they were safe. The original Greek says, **“He muzzled the storm.”** He muzzled it as you and I would muzzle a snarling dog. He later would muzzle death. He did this by dying on the cross and rising again. He won our forgiveness. They would see bigger and bigger miracles from Jesus!

2. Note that Jesus had perfect trust as he slept. He is not afraid. He is at peace. Jesus had perfect trust in his Father as he closed his eyes in the sleep of death. He is our perfect Savior.

C. Jesus saves therefore we can have peace in the midst of the storms of life.

1. He will work things out. He will always save us while he needs us here on earth. This story is from Crown of Life (WELS) Church New Orleans.

I guess every church has this kind of swings from good times to bad but what happened next in 2005, would test our church in a new way, Hurricane Katrina. As the water broke through the levees it flooded the homes, hopes and dreams of most of our members along with

the church, fellowship and parsonage. We were back to the beginning, worshiping in the homes of members whose houses didn't flood. With no place to live most of the members had to find lodging and work in other cities. Our church was scattered across the country. Would our church survive this great test? Would our members be able to come home? The hand of God was with us again. Over the next 3-4 years, God sent helpers from all over the country to help us rebuild our homes and our churches. They were once again the hand of God. Many could not return but most did and the Lord by his power brought our church back again.

<https://www.crownoflifemola.com/history/>

2. Even if the Lord would not let a congregation rebuild remember he has already forgiven our sins. We have the peace of knowing that he will rescue us from the final storm, the dark storm of death and bring us home to live in the sunshine of heaven.

Conclusion: We haven't had anything catastrophic at SotV. We once had a broken urinal that flooded a bathroom. Every few years we have had termite issues and bee infestations, but nothing like Crown of Life, NOLA.

When things happen we might ask ourselves, "*Why does the Lord God allow such incidents?*" Our God cares enough to answer. He does so in Mark 4 today. He wants to use the storms which are a normal part of our lives on earth to build our faith. He builds our faith by showing us he cares and by helping us. At times when we are startled we look at the cross. We find peace. We remember that he cares. We have a God who saves. He doesn't just save us for this life. He wants to save us for eternal life. So you have an answer to the question, "**Jesus, Don't You Care About Us?**" Amen.

