

“Confronting Life's Storms”

Mark 4:35-41

1.18.15

INTRO: Questions!! We all have them. Some require a simple answer and then we quickly move on. “How do I find the nearest gas station?” “In which aisle do I find the bread?” But others are more unsettling and linger far longer? “Why did he/she have to die?” “Do you still love me?” “Why is there all this suffering in our world?” “Does God care?”

There is quite a bit of historical and traditional evidence to conclude that Mark, the author of the second gospel, was a disciple of the Apostle Peter. And from Peter Mark heard the remarking stories of Jesus’ life and ministry. Nudged by the Holy Spirit Mark sought to write down for succeeding generations some of the things Peter had taught him. It may have been prompted by Peter’s death, either because it already had happened or because it loomed on the near horizon as likely to occur soon. And as Mark gathers his materials and collects his thoughts, it appears that “questions about Jesus” will become a central focus of his gospel.

If you have some time, look at the following passages and see if you can answer the following: (1) What was the setting? (2) Who verbalized the question? (3) What really prompted the question? *Mark 1:27; 2:7; 4:41; 6:2-3; 8:4; 11:28*. And it is interesting to note that these rather critical questions go unanswered . . . at least for a while. What is Mark up to? And does he provide an answer eventually? Can you find it?

Are there any storms in your life today? If not presently, most of us have indeed encountered such storms in the past, and the chances are good there will be some more blowing our way as life unfolds. I come from an older school of sermon preparation where alliteration was often practiced. Today I have a plaque in my office which reads: “Avoid Alliteration Always!” But I couldn’t resist the urge so please bear with me as we look at *Mark 4:35-41* together:

(over)

1. THE _____ OF THE MEN
2. THE _____ OF JESUS
3. THE _____ OF JESUS
4. THE _____ OF JESUS
5. THE _____ FROM THE MEN

Any storms in your life? Uncertain health issues, broken relationships, financial pressures, etc. Could God be using that storm now to help you recognize that you can’t handle it on your own, but that He is big enough to handle it for you? Remember this truth for your present storm:

“The boat will not sink and the storm will not last!”