

**TODAY we mark the words of Jesus in Mark 4:39 where he says: “Hush, be still.”**

- 35 On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side."  
36 Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him.  
37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.  
38 Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"  
39 And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "**Hush, be still.**" And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.  
40 And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"  
41 They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

#### COMMENTARY

v. 35 “On that day, when evening came” indicates that this miracle occurs at the end of a busy day of teaching on the seashore. Jesus is tired – showing his very human nature – and he bids the disciples go east across the sea of Galilee to get a break from the crowds

v. 36 “just as he was” implies that Jesus was tired and physically worn out – coming straight from his day of ministry.

v. 37 “a fierce gale of wind” was infrequent, but not uncommon as the winds blew south from Mt. Hermon across the lake. That the “waves were breaking over the boat” and “the boat was already filling up” shows that their safety and lives were in danger. God has “set the stage” for the miracle and the lesson.

v. 38 That Jesus was asleep through all this demonstrates both (a) his physical exhaustion and (b) his complete trust in his heavenly Father.  
That “they woke him” shows both (a) their desperation and (b) a degree of faith that Jesus might be able to help.

They’re not so mild rebuke of “do you not care” shows that they really don’t yet know who Jesus really is; AND it reminds us of how many times we expect God to care, wondering if He does – and yet we must know that GOD ALWAYS CARES. This is a foundational aspect of God’s character and love.

*1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your care anxiety [care] upon Him, because He cares for you.*

Whatever the storms of your life that you are going through right now – GOD CARES. He may appear to be “sleeping” but He is still very much in charge. Cast your care on him – “wake him” not to rebuke, but in full faith to solicit his assistance.

v. 39 That Jesus rebukes the wind does not need to imply that he was rebuking an animate object such as demons or Satan. “Rebuke” can simply mean to “command with authority.” It certainly does demonstrate God’s absolute command over nature – something only Deity can claim – thus showing Jesus to be Deity.

Note that he rebukes the wind: I.e. that which caused the storm and then “says” to the sea: “hush, be still.” Here is the real miracle. It is one thing for wind to cease blowing hard – we have wind blow hard and then cease quite quickly. But for the waves to be still in an instant, even after the wind has died down, is “impossible” apart from a miracle. It wasn’t just “calm,” it was “perfectly calm.” Astounding!

Application: The storms in our life are many. They cause anxiety and can even strike fear deep in our being. Circumstances seem to blow purposefully against us and the waves of obstacle and despair mount up like the billows of the angry sea. We might be brought to think “does God care?” Be assured that he does and knows every movement of the wind and sea. To “wake” the Master in prayer is not inappropriate – in fact, it is what we should do. But to scold his seeming indifference is never appropriate nor accurate.

It is in the midst of our storm that we must learn to TRUST. We must “hear His ‘hush’” The calm that comes may be the calming of the circumstances – or that may not change for a season. But the true miracle will be the calming of our soul – the “peace that passes all understanding.” How does that come?

*Philippians 4:6-7 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

When we hear Jesus’ words “be still” it’s hard not to think of the familiar translation of Psalm 46:10 *Be still and know that I am God.*

This is the translation in both the King James Version and New International Version. But I think the New American Standard has it best when it says:

Psalm 46:10 (NASB) *Cease striving and know that I am God.*

We might say “lighten up” or “mellow out” or “cool it” or “relax” – but it all means that we are to stop trying on our own and striving in our own strength.

We need to hear Jesus say “Shhhh” – let me be God – your protector and caretaker

One of my favorite psalms is #131

*O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor are my eyes haughty*

*Nor do I involve myself in great matters*

*Nor in things too difficult for me.*

*Surely, I have composed and quieted my soul*

*Like a weaned child rests against his mother.*

*My soul is like a weaned child within me.*

*O Israel, hope in the Lord from this time forth and forever.*

v. 40 Fear is the opposite of faith. The Bible records God or his angels saying, “fear not” many times in the Scriptures. It is clear that God does not want his children to be afraid. John in his first epistle tells us that “perfect love casts out all fear.” Fear in the midst of the storm shows lack of trust in the “Storm Calmer” that God is. Faith is in God – the One who can and will calm the storms of our life.

v. 41 Now they are “very much afraid” for a different reason – they are fearful of and in awe of Jesus. The word “still” is important. Their fear had changed focus, but it was still fear. Their storm had been calmed but the fear remained. It reminds us of the time Jesus feeds 4000 and as they leave the scene the disciples are concerned about not having enough food. They just didn’t get it! Once we understand that Jesus is the “storm calmer” we need not fear ever again.

Ultimately, a year or so later, Peter would answer this question when he said “you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” This is what Jesus was trying to get them to see when he healed, rose people from the dead and calmed the sea.

And this is what Jesus wants us to see: know that He is God.

Their final question puts them exactly where Jesus wanted them to be as a result of the miracle. “Who is this...?”

Each must give his own answer

Each must profess his own faith

Each must add his own doxology

## **SUMMARY APPLICATION**

1. GOD ALWAYS CARES – cast your care upon him, for He cares for you
2. JESUS WILL CALM YOUR STORM – especially the inner storm of anxiety
3. HEAR HIS HUSH and cease striving
4. KNOW JESUS IS GOD deserving our full attention