

Recap of 6/11/23 message by Pastor Chris (Mark 4:35-41):

A) *Fear and faith are interconnected. Jesus remarks that the disciples' fear of the storm actually reflects their faithlessness. They have been walking with Jesus, have seen Him perform miracles, have listened to His teaching, and have even been included as insiders having private teaching, and yet they still do not understand the magnitude of who Jesus is. Not only do they fear the storm instead of having faith, but they also assume Jesus does not care for them.*

B) *The emphasis in this story is on who Jesus is, not on how he rescues fretful disciples from danger whenever they cry out to him. We sometimes have this thought that we should expect miraculous intervention that will calm all the storms in our lives, but storms are a part of life from which no one escapes. The point of this story is not to see Jesus as some genie that we call upon when we can't handle things on our own, **absolutely not!** The point is to drive the disciples, and us as readers, to ask the question: "Who is this that even the wind and waves obey Him." That He can transform a mega storm (4:37) into a mega calm (4:39) with just a word reveals he has power to do what only the God who created the sea can do (see Gen. 8:1; Job 26:12; Pss. 65:7; 74:13–14; 89:9; 93:3–4; 104:5–9; 106:9; 114:3; Isa. 50:2). Jesus has mastery over the sea, the place of chaos and evil, as God does.*

C) *A truncated view of God leads to a truncated faith in God. The disciples' fear changes from cowardice due to the storm (deilos, the word for fear in verse 40 has the negative connotation of cowardice or timidity) to a fear of Jesus upon seeing the power of God. The word for fear in verse 41 has both the idea of fear, being scared, and reverence or awe, being awestruck with amazement. Just as Isaiah responded with fear and awe at the glory, holiness, and majesty of God when he received his vision in Isaiah chapter 6, so too the disciples respond likewise. This is an appropriate response when we begin to see the fullness of who God is.*

D) *How do you respond to events in your life? Do you respond in faith? Do you fear circumstances more than you fear God? What is God revealing to you about your faith and who He is? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). Let us be people who grow in our faith as we grow in our understanding of who God is.*