

## Study Guide: Jesus, Master of the Storm

Carter Sanger, Jan-10

### Introduction

Describe a time when you felt truly afraid. What caused it? What happened?

Read Mark 4:35-41.

### I. The Master *over* the Storm

- In verse 38, what is the question the disciples ask Jesus? What does this reveal about the disciples? Of what are they afraid?
- What does their fear reflect about their understanding of Jesus? Of their feeling toward Jesus? When you find yourself facing a trial that you think God could do something about and he doesn't, what is your response to God? Describe your experience.
- Read verses 39-41. Now that the imminent threat of the storm has passed, they have a "great" fear? What is it? Why do they have such fear? (cf. Exo 33:20; Isa 6:5)

### II. The Master *in* the Storm

The principle that Jesus is master over the storm can be applied to our own storms in life too.

- Have you ever faced a "storm" (or crisis) in your life? Did people offer comfort? What kind of comfort did people offer? What tends to be the attitude that people hold up as the best attitude to have during a time of crisis?
- Read John 11:17-21. What does Martha say to Jesus? Have you ever felt like that about some of the storms in life you've faced?
- Read John 11:5-6 and 11-15. Was Lazarus' death an unplanned tragedy that Jesus simply undid? What does Jesus' intentional delay tell us about Lazarus' death? Why is Jesus glad he was not there until after Lazarus' death?
- Now read Mark 4:35 again. Who was it that led them into the storm in the first place? Why might Jesus have been taking them into the storm? What was the condition of their faith in Jesus? From what other things might Jesus have been wrestling their faith?
- If increased faith in Jesus decreases our fear, what can we expect to be able to do in the midst of storms? What is Jesus doing? (Cf also Psalm 127:2)

### III. The Master *that endures* the Storm

It was common in ancient times (and largely still is) that storms somehow were a result of God's anger. In Homer's *Odyssey*, the raging storms prevent Odysseus from getting home for years because the god of the Sea, Poseidon, was angry with him. Even the Bible explains that God is in control over storms (cf. Psalm 29)

- If storms aren't God's judgment, they at least point to the judgment of God. This may be the most crucial point that Mark wants us to see. Read Jeremiah 30:23-24. What kind of storm does he speak of?
- In the next chapter of Jeremiah (31:31-34), we find out that God relents against Israel and will make a new covenant. What is at the heart of this new covenant?
- Read Luke 22:20 or Mark 14:24. What is it that secures this new covenant?

### Wrap-up

- Did Jesus endure the storm of God's judgment for you? How do you know? If so, then what can be your view of storms you face today?