

# FOLLOWING IN THE WAY:

## The Gospel of Mark

Sinking Boats

MARK 4:35-5:43

10/18/26



What is the worst storm you have experienced?

What's the worst storm you have experienced? Some have gone through tornadoes. We weathered hurricanes. And then there are hailstorms that tear up roofs and trees.

How did you respond to the storm? Were you a little afraid or did you sleep through it?



Mark 4:35–5:43.

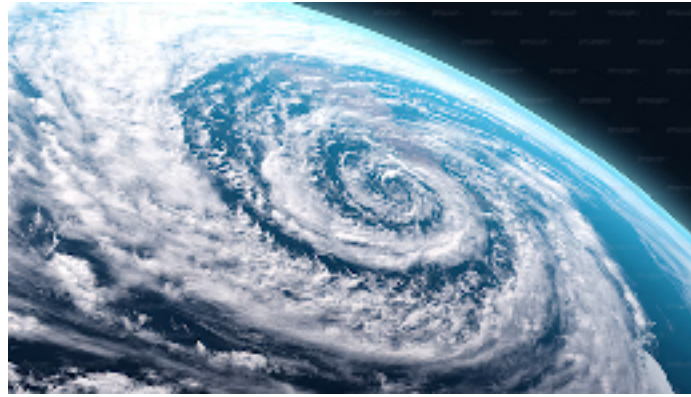
***What kind of trouble are people in?***

Today's lesson is from Mark 4:35–5:43. Take a brief look at your Bible, even if it is just the headings. What kind of trouble are people in in this lesson?

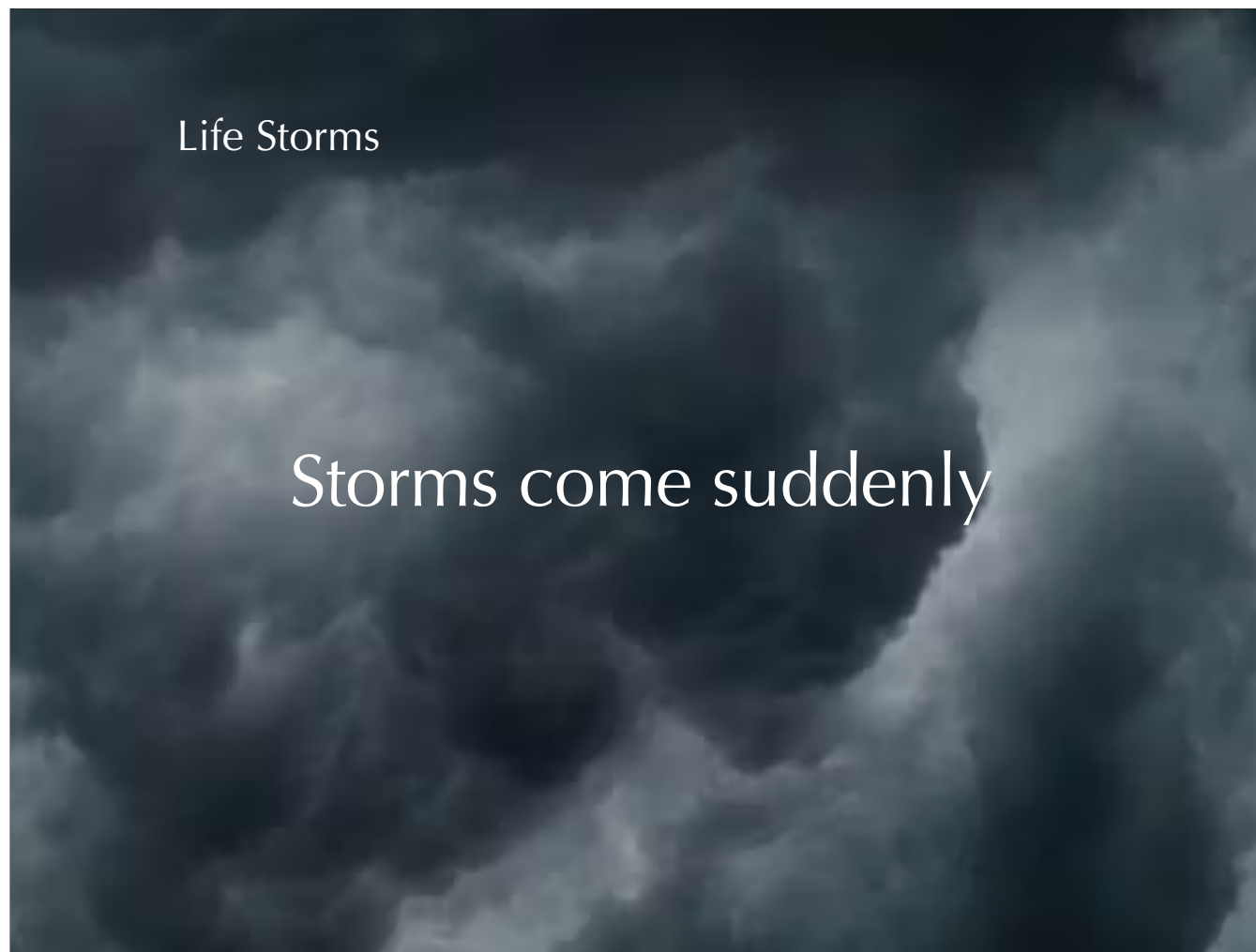
(The storm on the sea of Galilee, the demoniac who has been banished to the tombs and the resulting loss to the pig farmers, the woman with the hemorrhage, and the 12 year old who died.)



## Storm Pictures



These are a series of storm pictures. You see people in distress and looking for some way out of their misery. They are caught in various life storms.



When you come to life storms, you have to face some issues.

They come suddenly. Some physical storms are like that. A rainstorm can turn into a thunderstorm and have a tornado hit one house on a block before rising back into the cloud.

Illnesses have a starting point. No one plans for the storm. You endure it.



Life Storms

Storms disrupt life

Storms also disrupt life. Damage can come and even if not, your emotional system is turned upside down. You feel numb hoping for relief.



Life Storms

Storms are outside of our control

But the third is they are outside of our control. I want you to think about all four of these stories this morning. For lack of a better word, the people are victims. They cannot, on their own, take steps to stop it.

# Four Storms

The **Physical** storm — the sea

The Spiritual storm — the demoniac

The **Health** storm — the woman

The **Mortality** storm — Jairus's daughter

*Mark has put these in order, and each is bigger than the last*

There are four storms in this lesson.

There is a physical storm when a squall spins up on the Sea of Galilee.

A spiritual storm enrapt a man when hundreds of evil spirits inhabit him and evil takes over.

A woman suffers a health storm, when her condition never can be helped and she is at the end of her rope.

Finally, mortality is the last storm, when a 12 year old girl is about to die and then does.

Mark has put these in order, and each is bigger than the last. A storm outside us. A spirit inside us. A sickness in the body. And the last enemy.

# Three Questions

At every storm, ask three questions:

What is the **fear**?

What is the **faith**?

What does **Jesus** do?



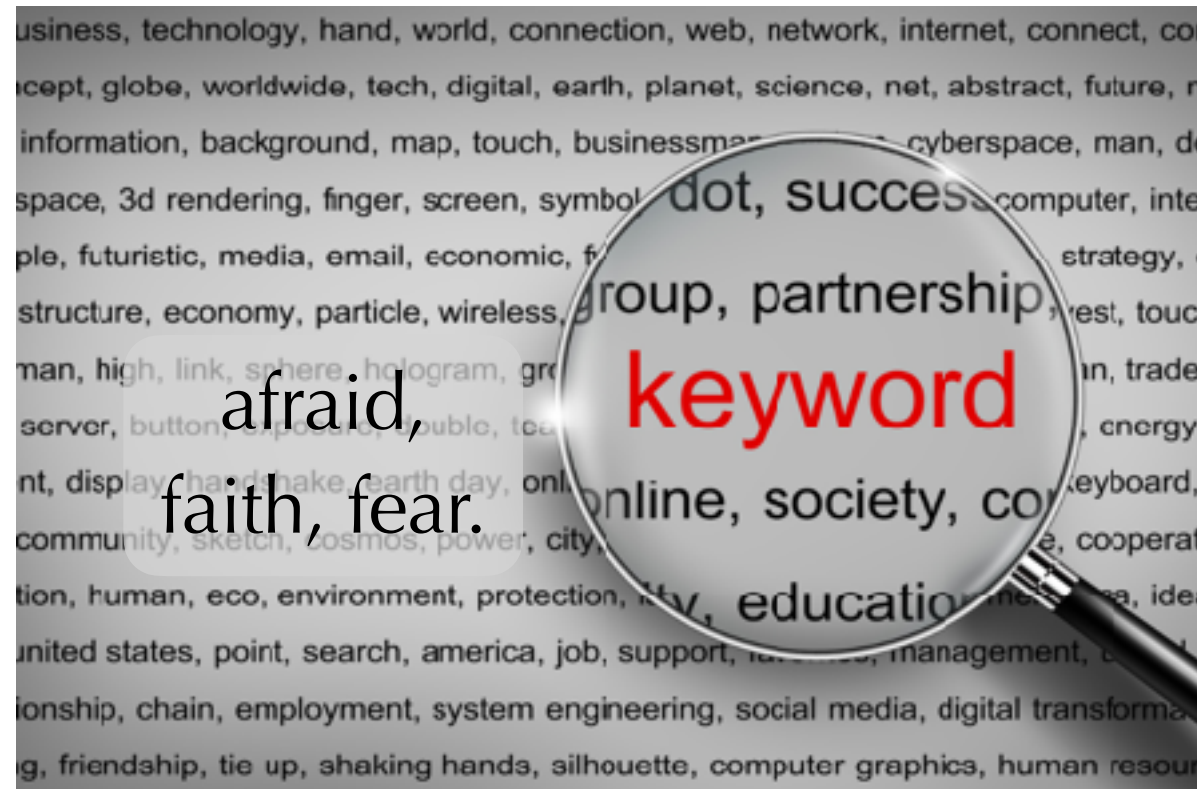
In all of these we need to ask three questions because they mirror the questions we need to ask ourselves in life storms.

Where is the fear? Where am I afraid and what causes it?

What is the faith in the story? When have people acted in a way that shows they want to come to Jesus?

And then finally, what does Jesus do? How does his power change the storm into something better?

Watch for three words: \*afraid, faith, fear.\* You will come back to this slide's questions at each storm.



As you read through this lesson, you keep coming across three key words...afraid, fear, and faith. This is the driving point of Mark.

# The Physical Storm

“That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”” (Mark 4:35–41, NIV)

Let’s start with the physical storm.

(Read it briefly without pointing out details yet.)

# The Physical Storm

“That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.” (Mark 4:35–36, NIV)

It begins at evening when Jesus gives the command to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. So the disciples, with a small armada of other boats left Capernaum to go to a whole different world, much more Gentile than Nazareth.

# The Physical Storm

“A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”” (Mark 4:37–38, NIV)

It says a furious squall arose. It describes a rotational affect with winds coming from “the four compass points.”

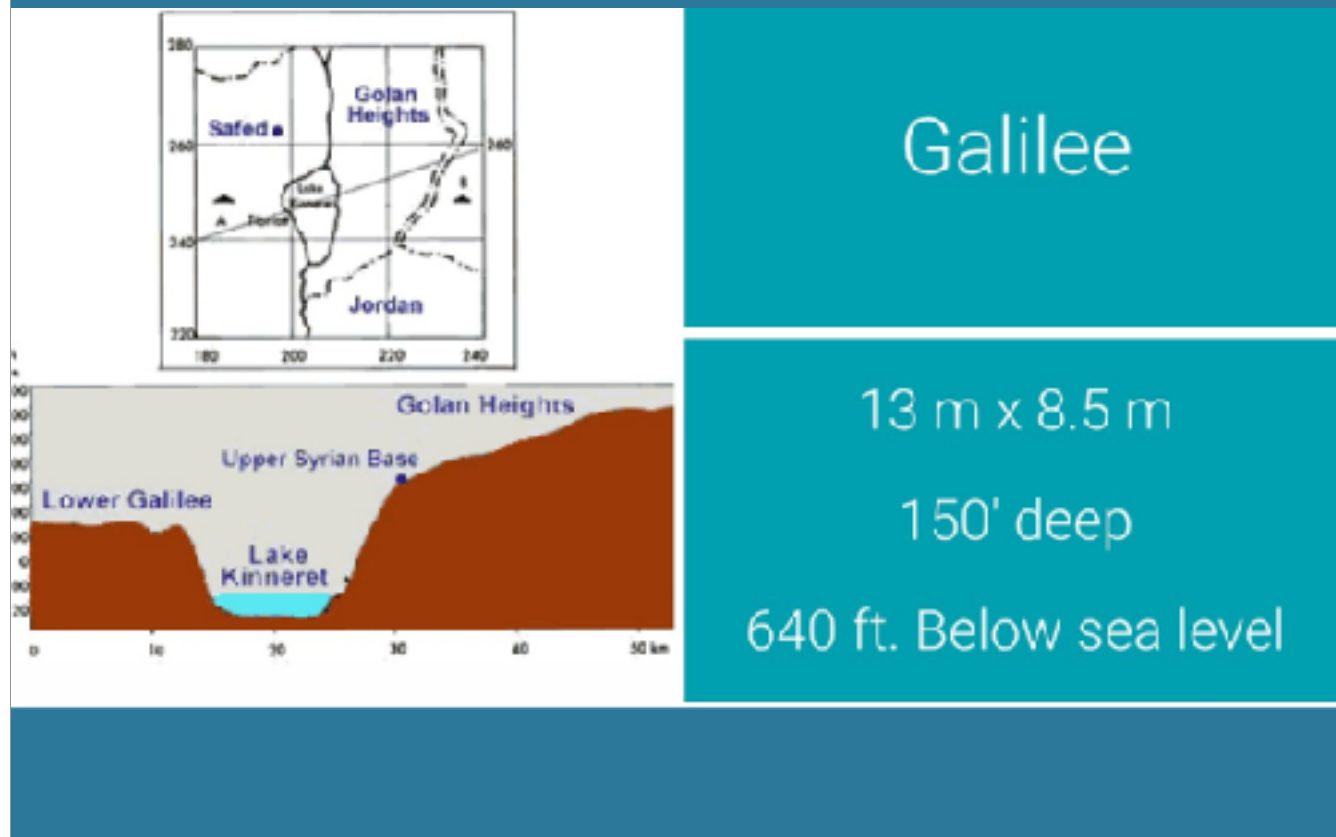
The boat is in peril but Jesus is sound asleep.

I find it interesting what they tell him...don't you care? They had already decided they would die. Notice they were not waking up Jesus to calm the storm but because “misery loves company.”

He is going to show them how much he cares.



Just to give you an idea of what it was like. The boat was not large. It was about 27 feet long and 7½ ft wide and 4 ft deep. This is a boat excavated from the shore of Galilee that archeologists date to about 120 AD so this would be the same kind of boat.

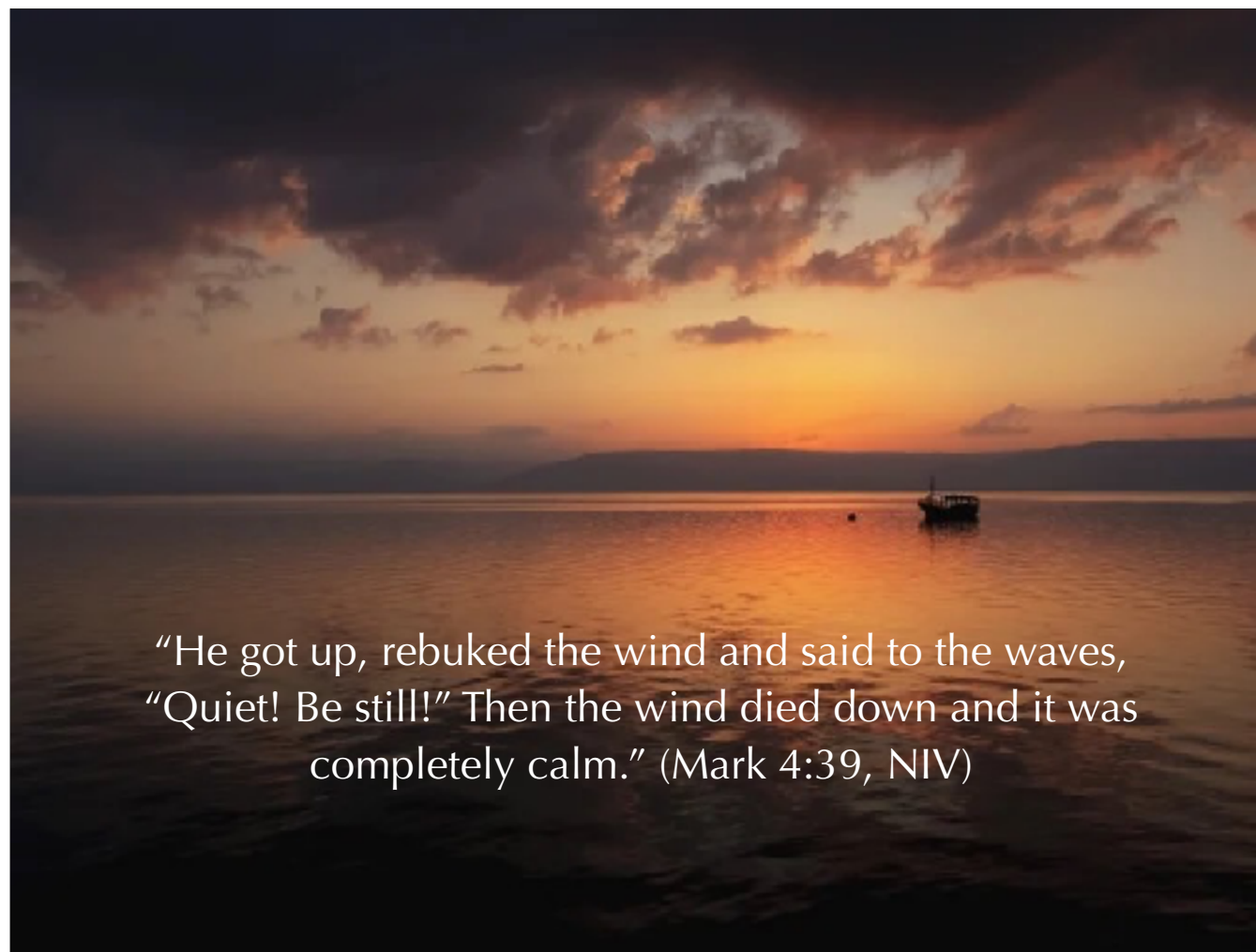


The squall is caused by geography. The Sea of Galilee rests 640 feet below sea level. Jesus would have left from the west bank which was lower than the opposite shore.

The lake is roughly 13 × 8 miles

When winds from the Mediterranean flowed across the mountains, it would explode without warning into a monster.

Tell my story about the tornadoes in Georgetown...Hill country thunderstorms get violent quickly.



“He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,  
“Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was  
completely calm.” (Mark 4:39, NIV)

But Jesus rebukes (or censures) the storm, treating it as you would a rambunctious child.

He only uses two words. Silence. Calm.

It says that the sea, so churned by the storm became glass instantly.

“He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”” (Mark 4:40–41, NIV)

# Physical storm

Fear: "We are perishing."

Faith: underdeveloped, but they woke him.

Jesus: speaks to the sea

*Does a storm mean we've disobeyed?*

So let's return to our three questions.

The fear of life says, "I am going to die." We feel the threat of the storm, and the disciples, even with their experience on that sea felt the threat.

But they showed undeveloped faith. In fact, Jesus says to them. Do you still not have any faith? He called them cowardly because in the future they would need to be stronger. The gentle nudge is instructed, not an admonition. Pay more careful attention. Learn something. Faith is always developed through a series of experiences. Those whose faith grows, takes those experiences and learns from them.

And finally, Jesus spoke to the sea. He interacted with nature to change it. And the men started asking the right question...who is this that the winds and the waves obey him? It is a question that begins to open up new vistas on faith.

# Storm 2: The Spiritual Storm

Mark 5:1-20

A Hopeless Man

Tombs · an unclean spirit

Not even a chain could bind him  
"No one had the strength to subdue him."

Night and day, crying out

The second storm is a spiritual storm.

There is a man who is hopelessly caught in the grasp of hundreds of evil spirits. We don't know how or can explain them, but when evil gets its grip on you, it changes you.

The man is no longer in charge of himself. He is so threatening that the townspeople have driven him out to the tomb where he lives like a beast, naked and brutish.

They tried to contain him but he broke chains and at night, he would roam in the dark howling like a wolf.

He was banished and feared and lost his humanity.

“He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!” Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” *“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.”*” (Mark 5:7–9, NIV)

But when the demons see Jesus, they shout what the demon did at the synagogue in Capernaum. Get away. You don’t need to be around here. They, like that demon, know who he is. Spirit recognizes spirit, even an evil one.

Jesus commands them to come out (the only one who can). And then Jesus asks the name...names give control. (Jacob at the Jabbok River, wrestles with an angel and wants to know his name...it gives you control.)

The name of the group is legion for they are many. (A Roman legion was 6000 men.)

“When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.

Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.” (Mark 5:15–17, NIV)

*Fear can push us away from Jesus.*

They come out and Jesus sends them into a herd of swine (an appropriate figure for a Jewish audience) and they run headlong over a cliff. You see the power of the spirits, even on animals.

The man calms. He was dressed and sane when the townspeople went out to find out what happened.

And it says, “they were afraid.” They just want Jesus to leave. Fear can push us away from Jesus.

"Go home to your friends  
and tell them *how much  
the Lord has done for you,  
and how he has had  
mercy on you.*"  
Mark 5:19



Jesus tells the man to go and tell what the Lord has done for you. He becomes a missionary to his own people.

It is the best message. Here is what I was and through the power of God, this is who I am now. He says he has received “mercy” that trait that mirrors grace...given something you could not get on your own.

He goes where Jesus can't with the message of the gospel...the mercy of God through Jesus.

# Spiritual storm

Fear: "No one could bring him under control."

Faith: sitting, clothed, sent to tell.

Jesus: casts out and commissions.

In this storm, life is out of control and that gives terror.

But in faith, the man responds and is calm and goes to tell the story.

Jesus sends out the demons and sends the man to tell the story.

## Storm 3: The Health Storm

### **Jairus**

"implored him earnestly... My little daughter is at the point of death."

### **The woman**

Twelve years of bleeding. Spent all she had. Only worse.  
She heard the reports about Jesus. She touched his garment.

The next two storms are intertwined.

First, we have Jairus, the head officer of the synagogue. I imagine his is cool to Jesus since the Pharisees were seeking to kill him but sometimes life breaks through your formal feelings and you get desperate. I will do anything.

His little girl is dying. In fact the words he uses are “she is at the end.”

But as Jesus is making his way, he has an encounter with a woman with a hemorrhage of blood. It has been with her a dozen years and it has left her penniless, hopeless, and outcast. People who have such a thing cannot participate in the Jewish rituals such as passover until the bleeding stops. She is cut off from her spiritual environment.

She has heard stories and this is her last change...she reaches and brushes his robe.

“At once Jesus realized that **power** had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ” But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, **trembling with fear**, told him the whole truth. He said to her, **“Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”**” (Mark 5:30–34, NIV)

Jesus feels the power leave him so he is aware. When he asked who touched me, the disciples say everyone has touched you, you are in a crowd. (Like going to the State Fair.)

Finally she comes but notice, she comes trembling in fear. She is fearful of rebuke, refusal, and exposure.

But Jesus treated her tenderly. Your faith has made you well. Your steps toward me, even if you did not know for sure, is what gave you your health.

# Health storm

Fear: Twelve years, worse

Faith: she heard, and she touched.

Jesus: stops, finds her, calls her "Daughter."

So, let's recap this storm.

The woman came full of tension. All of her life had been taken. And I imagine she must have thought what if this doesn't work or he doesn't want to help me...I have no where else to turn.

Instead, she demonstrates her faith in a single reach. She reached out to Jesus, which is the ultimate idea of faith.

Jesus responds...he stops, looks at her not as someone pathetic, but as a "daughter". Not only did he heal her disease, he restored her humanity.

## Storm 4

# The Mortality Storm

Mark 5:35–43

But then, Jesus turns back to Jairus's house to find much wailing.

“While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. ***“Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”***” (Mark 5:35, NIV)

“Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, ***“Don’t be afraid; just believe.”***” (Mark 5:36, NIV)

As Jesus is engaged with the crowd, someone arrives with a message for Jairus. It is too late. Your daughter is dead. It is now completely hopeless.

Notice Jesus is not in a hurry. There seems to be a reason for the delay.

But Jesus heard this and said, “Do not be afraid. Just believe.”

That must have been strange. Believe what? She’s dead and now it is time to plan the funeral.

“When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a **commotion**, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was.” (Mark 5:38–40, NIV)

"They laughed at him."

"But he put them all **outside**."

Mother and father: **inside**

When Jesus comes to the house (against all of the possible protestations), he finds a commotion.

Look at the other stories we have seen things out of control....a storm on the sea, a man so wild chains can't hold him, and blood that cannot be stopped.

He says she is sleeping. They think him crazy. She has no breath. Her heart is not beating. The grayness of rigor-mortis has begun.

But then someone happens. All of those cynics who have already made up their minds are put outside. And he lets the mother and father remain inside.

Again, people not willing to believe are on the outside while those who want more are on the inside.

“He took her by the hand and said to her, *“Talitha koum!”*  
*(which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”)*.  
Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she  
was twelve years old). At this they were completely  
astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know  
about this, and told them to give her something to eat.”  
(Mark 5:41–43, NIV)

Immediately the girl got up and began walking

Give her something to eat."

He takes her hand and speaks a term that means “little lamb” get up

The girl arises and is walking. (Not recovering from a coma but free of disease and weakness.)

And Jesus says to give her something to eat.

It is the proof of complete healing.

# Mortality storm

Fear: "Too late."

Faith: Jairus keeps walking.

Jesus: takes her hand and raises her.

So in this story...there are those whose fear is that it is too late. Don't bother the teacher.

But in faith, Jairus keeps walking with Jesus toward his house. He came to get him to heal his daughter but he still is walking.

And in response, to the situation, Jesus raises her from the dead.

| Storm     | Fear / despair              | Faith / hope           | Jesus                  |
|-----------|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Physical  | "We are perishing."         | They woke him          | Speaks to the sea      |
| Spiritual | "No one could control him." | Sitting, clothed, sent | Casts out, commissions |
| Health    | Twelve years, worse         | She heard and touched  | "Daughter"             |
| Mortality | "Too late."                 | Jairus keeps walking   | "Arise"                |

If we take this whole lesson this is how it comes out.

Four storms. Four expressions of fear. Four expressions of hope. And the one who made them all happen is Jesus.

No matter the situation, Jesus had complete command over it.

# **Fear is not the problem.**

**The response to the fear is the problem.**

The town asked him to leave.

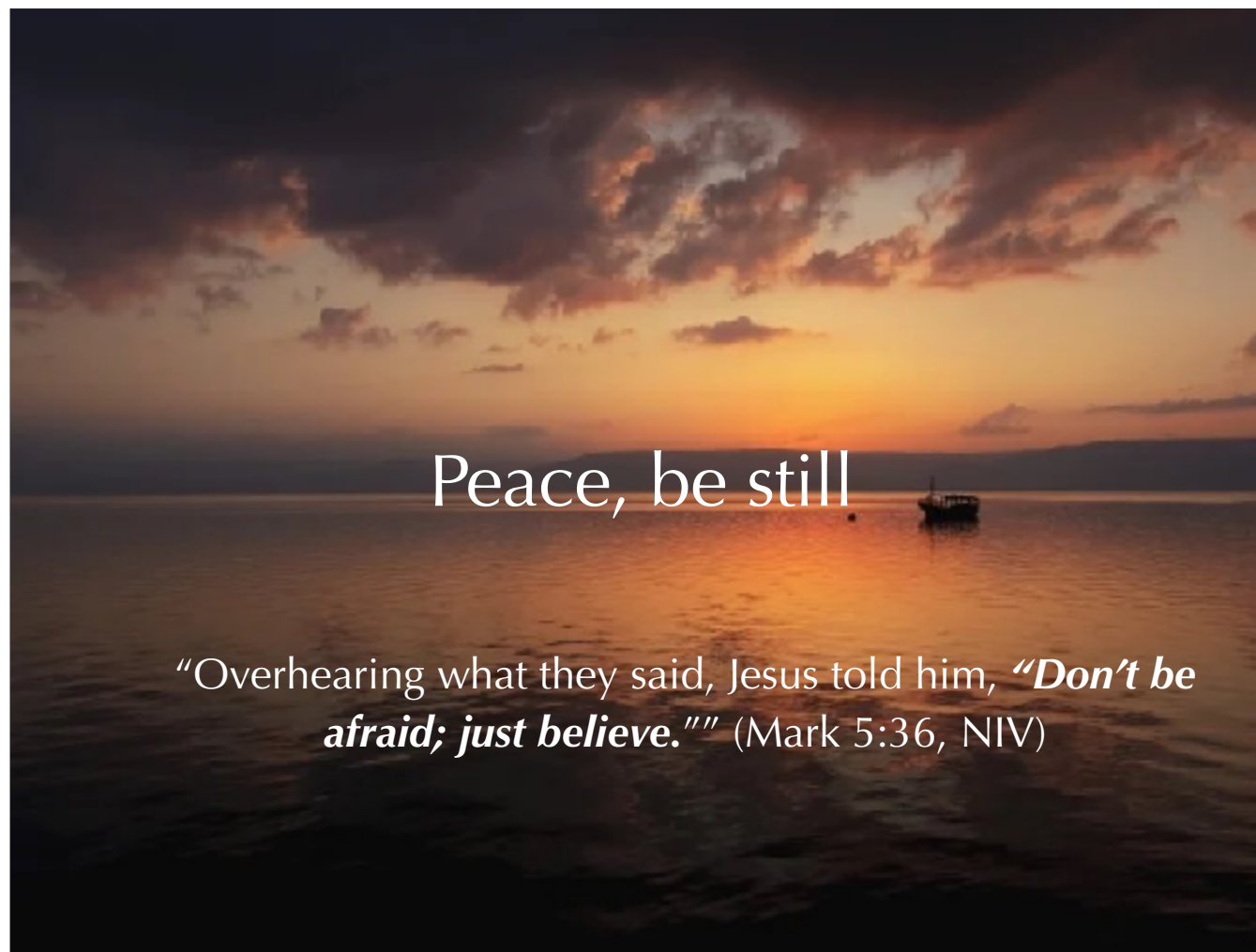
The disciples, the man, the woman and Jairus all  
ended at his feet.

Fear is not the problem. Fear is normal. Fear is human. God made us to be afraid to be aware of the dangers to us.

The real problem is not the fear but response fear causes..

In the Gerasene town, the people just wanted Jesus as far away as possible. Some reject Christ because it is too hard to follow him.

But the disciples, the woman, and Jairus, all stayed and watched and let him deal with their storms.



## Peace, be still

“Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, ***“Don’t be afraid; just believe.”***” (Mark 5:36, NIV)

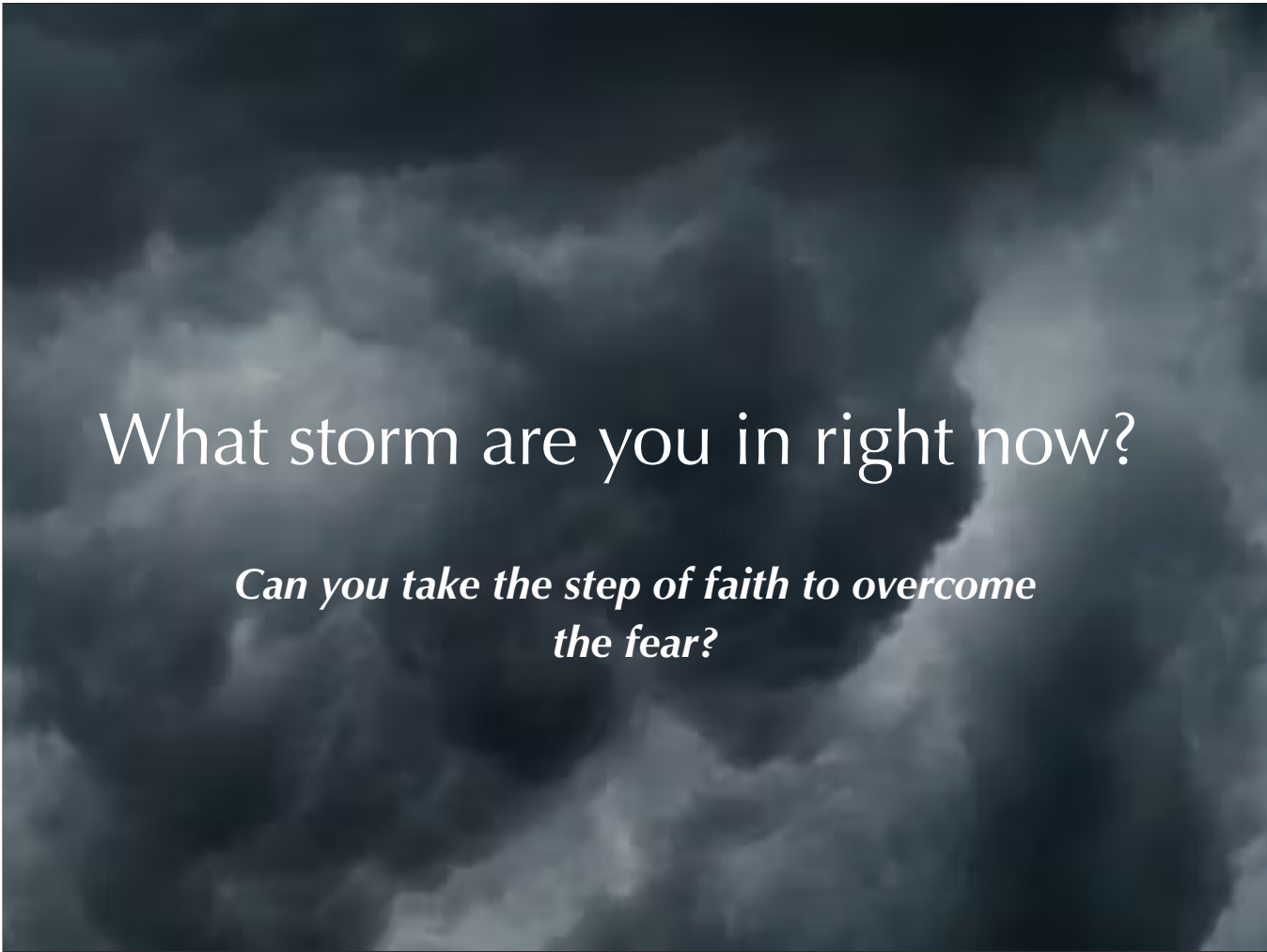
I want to come back to this simple two word command.

Jesus told the storm...peace, be still.

We have always believed that these words for the winds and the waves, but when you look carefully, it is for us, the humans who when caught in the storms of life are so upset, so anxious, so overwhelmed that we find ourselves in the middle of a spiritual squall.

Instead, Jesus tells us “peace, be still.” In times of trouble, perhaps our prayer should be, “Lord help me to hear your peace be still.”

That’s what he told the crowd at Jairus’ house. Don’t be afraid. Just believe.



What storm are you in right now?

*Can you take the step of faith to overcome  
the fear?*

So what storm are you in right now? Under blue skies and no rain, you can still be in a storm, a life and spirit of upset, struggling with health or doubt or decisions or family.

And to that he says peace, be still

Do you have the faith to overcome the fear?