

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 4

The Storms of Life

Although Jesus did a great many miracles, the four Gospels record about 35 for our study. Although we naturally think Jesus did miracles out of people's need and His compassion, the primary purpose seems to be a teaching tool for His disciples and a revelation about who He is. In the miracle recorded in Mark 4:35-41, the disciples were obeying and following Jesus when they found themselves in a great deal of trouble. The early church saw this story as a sign of the presence of Jesus in the midst of the trouble that was threatening to overwhelm the church. The storms of life are meant to reveal something new about Jesus.

Read Mark 4:35 – 5:20

1. Whose idea and command was it to get in the boat and go out into the sea (Mark 4:35, Matt 8:18)? Was it just their boat, or were there others (Mark 4:36)?
2. The Sea of Galilee was below sea level and the mountains rise up around the northern side, so high winds and storms can sweep down on the lake suddenly and without warning. What problem suddenly arose in Mark 4:37? Contrast the difference between Jesus' attitude during the storm and the disciples' attitude (v38).
3. What profession did most of the disciples previously have in Mark 1:16? What benefit were their skills in this storm? Who was the only hope for deliverance?
4. Based on Mark 4:40, was their real problem the storm or something else more serious? What was the re-occurring question that they asked in verse 41, and what is the answer?
5. After they had survived the storm and arrived at the east side of the Sea of Galilee, what new problem were they confronted with in the country of the Gerasenes (Mark 5:1-10)?

6. Was the Gerasene demoniac self destructive? Could the locals control him? What did he say to Jesus in verse 7?

7. What was the demon's name, and what was Jesus commanding him? Luke 8:31 gives exact details of what the demons were afraid of, and why they preferred going into the pigs.

8. Does it appear that the demons recognize Jesus' authority and know their ultimate fate (Mark 5:6-7)? After Jesus allowed them to go into the pigs in Mark 5:11-13, what happened to the pigs?

9. Do you think the demons forced the pigs into the lake to destroy them and cause trouble for Jesus, or did the pigs run in to rid themselves of the demons (Mark 5:13)? Describe the reaction of the local people to what happened in Mark 5:14-17.

10. Reading the reaction of the local people, does it seem like they were more comfortable with the demons, or with Jesus? What did the newly liberated man who was free of the demons request of Jesus, and what did Jesus tell him (Mark 5:18-20)?