

DIVE DEEPER

READ Mark 4:35-38 (NIV)

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 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?"

GOD FALLS ASLEEP SOMETIMES:

¿ This story opens with Jesus falling asleep during a dangerous storm. **Does God take a break from our troubles from time to time?**

¿ **Are there situations where God does not intervene because He is not concerned?**

› (V. 38) The disciples rebuke Jesus for his apparent lack of concern. They say, "Don't you care if we drown?" The present tense ἀπολλύμεθα (apollometha), "we are in the act of perishing," admits all of the disciples' groveling helplessness in the imminent catastrophe, while they ask, "Don't you care?"

¿ **What does this say about the assumptions of the disciples?**

¿ **Could Christ have sunk with his disciples on that day?**

¿ **Professional fishermen turn to a professional carpenter to find a solution to their sailing problems. What other assumptions does this reveal in the hearts of the disciples?**

JESUS REBUKES TWICE:

READ Mark 4:39 (NIV)

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

› (V. 39) The first words out of Jesus' mouth are not directed to his disciples, but to the wind and the waves.

-σιώπα (siopa), "be silent and keep so right along!"

-πεφίμωσο (pephimoso), "Put the muzzle on and keep it on!"

› These silencing commands were used just three chapters earlier in Mark 1:25 when Jesus cast an evil spirit out of a man in church.

¿ **What might be some connections to this storm?**

YES • NO • MAYBE

1. I have less troubles than the people sitting around me.

2. I get annoyed when people come to me with their big problems.

3. There are some storms in my life that are not a concern to God.

4. Fear in your life is a sign that you lack faith.

5. God would rather us endure the "storms" than ask Him to end them.



DIVE DEEPER (CONTINUED...)

READ Mark 4:40 (NIV)

40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

› (V. 40) Jesus now rebukes his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

¿ What do you think Jesus meant here?

¿ When most people join a church and "get into the boat," do they expect a life of calm or a life of chaos?

¿ What does Jesus really offer? Does he offer a way to speak calm into the chaos?

¿ On other occasions, Jesus says that his disciples can do the miracles that he is doing, and that they can do even greater things. **Do you think Jesus wanted them to *endure* the storm or *end* the storm?**

A NEW FEAR:

READ Mark 4:41 (NIV)

41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

› (V. 41) The disciples were not afraid of Jesus, did not run from him, but now looked upon him with the greatest awe. The words here are the same you would use when you are in the company of a famous celebrity.

- Looking back at the story In Mark 1 of the man with the evil spirit, the church members had a parallel response in verse 27 when they said, "Who is this man...who gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him."

¿ What does this question, uttered by the disciples, reveal about their true beliefs about the person of Jesus?

∞ Jesus has been known to sail right into the types of storms that make professional sailors cry. But remember, as surely as Christ could not have sunk with his disciples on that day, he will certainly not let you sink on this day.

NOTES

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MY PRAYER

1. Am I willing to get into the boat with Jesus whether it will be a calm or chaotic ride?
2. What storms have caused me to question God's care and concern for my life?
3. What new thing does God need me to know about His character this week?