

THE REACH

“Filtering everyday life through the word of God”

Mark’s gospel is the earliest writings we have about the life of Jesus. And, at that point in history, there was pretty much one question in everyone’s mind, “Who is Jesus? The answer? [READ MARK 1:1](#)

The entirety of Mark’s gospel validates the statement, *Jesus Christ, Son of God*. Things move fast in this gospel, and by chapter 2, the disciples are far down the road with Jesus, repeatedly proving his identity in a variety of ways; healing hundreds, casting out demons, and endlessly teaching to gigantic crowds.

[READ MARK 4:35-41](#)

Let’s break this story down. At the beginning of this scene, Jesus chose to leave the large crowd he was teaching and set out at night. Possibly because he did not want to lose daylight, and, he needed to get across the sea and on to the next chapter by morning. Ironically, this timely departure gives us a glimpse of his humanity. But first, [READ COLOSSIANS 2:9](#). This verse means Jesus (was) and (is) fully God and fully man. And, on that particular day at the Sea of Galilee, Jesus experienced the human need to shut down.

1) When was the last time you wanted to get in your car and just drive away? What was it that pushed you to this point of a physical/emotional need to shut down?

“YOU CAN BE IN A GOOD PLACE...IN YOUR BAD PLACE.” - JOHN PIPER

Unknowing to the disciples, while they sailed away in the cool of the evening, there was a storm ahead. Metaphorically, a storm is relatable to all of us, so let’s consider some context around this particular one, [READ MARK 4:37](#).

If we truly believe Jesus was/is fully God, he knew what was ahead before getting them in the boat! We can surmise Jesus actually led them into the storm.

The Greek translation of the word “storm” here, is “quake,” from which we get the words seismic and seismograph. These are terms relating to earthquakes, volcanos...**tsunamis**...! So, this was not an ordinary storm. And, happening at their point of exhaustion, very quickly they were cast into an overwhelming, powerless fear and panic...as the waves literally “covered up” the boat.

2) Overwhelming?! Powerless?! Panic?! Why do you think Jesus actually LED them to this type of storm when they were already at the point of exhaustion?

“WHEN THE STORMS OF LIFE STRIKE, IT’S WHAT HAPPENS IN YOU THAT WILL DETERMINE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU.”
- JERRY SAVALLE

[READ MARK 4:38](#)

This is the only time in the Bible that mentions Jesus sleeping. And, what a time to sleep. Had Jesus said, hey, a really bad storm is coming, so Mark, you keep watch on the hull, Matthew the deck, etc, they might have felt more prepared. But, Scripture just states Jesus was asleep in the stern of the boat when the storm arose. (Incidentally, did you know the stern of the boat is the pilot’s place where the decisions are made?)

[READ PSALM 121:2-3](#)

Not only was (the man) Jesus asleep in the boat...but (as God) Jesus was awake in the stern. (Sometimes it seems when we are in the storm Jesus is asleep and not caring, but always remember, **he is fully God and fully man, he does not slumber...**) *His arm is not shortened that he cannot save, his ear is not heavy that he cannot hear.*
Isaiah 59:1

Take a look again at [MARK 4:39](#). Consider how tender-hearted this action was of our Lord Jesus. He did not awaken to rebuke *the men* for their fear and anxiety, he rebuked *the storm* that caused those things. Perhaps since Jesus was fully man, he identified with their intermingled fears.

But, regardless, his first response was to deal with the raging storm that instigated their weakness and vulnerability.

3) Rebuke is a strong word; an expression of sharp disapproval, or criticism. Do you ever struggle with feelings that God sees you in this way? I do at times! What causes this knee-jerk reaction? What is lacking in our understanding of Jesus' love that makes us think he instantly looks upon us with sharp criticism?

READ MARK 4:40.

AFTER Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea, he could not ignore one important question for the disciples. What about your faith? The fully man, Jesus, associated with their feelings of inadequacies, but would not overlook what was lacking on their part. So, once the storm was settled, he dealt with it. And, as fully God, Jesus challenged them to something much deeper.

Remember the Verizon commercials, "Can you hear me now?" Well, that is kind of what Jesus was asking here. Of course, he wasn't really asking about their hearing, he was asking about their faith. Through the *experience* of the storm, Jesus, as fully God, saw what they were really made of and used the storm to gain their complete attention.

4) Has God ever steered you into a storm to get your attention? Has he ever asked, "Do you hear me now?" Briefly, share that experience, focusing on the result of his deliverance.

"I AM NOT AFRAID OF THE STORM, FOR I AM LEARNING HOW TO SAIL MY SHIP."
- LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Here's the deal, in our freedom with Christ, we are permitted to ask, "Where are you, Lord? What are you doing? Why are you not helping?" We see this all throughout Scripture; Job, Abraham, King David, Jeremiah, etc. And, it's repeated again in Mark's account of the storm. However, true to his nature, Jesus was awakened by the cries of his disciples, not to rebuke them, but to help them.

What if you called 911 and got a recording saying to leave a voicemail because they were asleep for the night? Or, they heard your complaint and decided it was your fault and you did not deserve help. HA! That's not going to happen. The same is true of our Lord. We can rest in the knowledge that from Genesis to Revelation, the consistent pattern of God proves he is never shut off from the prayers of his people.

"PRAYER IS MORE THAN A WISH, IT IS THE VOICE OF FAITH DIRECTED TO GOD."
- BILLY GRAHAM