



Sermon Questions

Date: *October 16, 2022* | Scripture: *Mark 4:35-41*

1. Read the passages from the sermon together. If you've heard this passage before, what stood out to you this time? Did you see any new details you missed before?
2. What are the biggest storms you've weathered in your life? What are the storms you are currently facing?
3. How do you typically respond to storms in your life? Do you jump ship and attempt to swim to shore by yourself? Do you try to bail water out of the boat even while the waves continue, like the disciples? Do you study the storm and hope to think your way out of the problem?
4. Storms tend to make us take our eyes off of Jesus and remember who is in the boat with us. How does your typical way of handling storms point to the way you forget Jesus? What do you need to remember about him?
5. Jesus meets us in the storm with his words, his power, and his love. Which are you particularly grateful for?

Inward Grace in Action

(While you can use the following section to help facilitate group discussion, this might also be a helpful resource to share with your whole group and meditate on through the week.)

As storms persist in our lives, we often wonder why God hasn't calmed them yet like he did for the disciples. We don't always know why God lets certain storms go on for so long, but it is clear that the storms in our lives are the very ways Jesus shows us who he is.

We are just as forgetful as the disciples. We're prone to forget God's word, and Jesus elsewhere promises us we will face storms (John 16:33). We're prone to forget his power - the whole world is upheld by the word of his power (Hebrews 1:3). And we're prone to forget his love. He doesn't leave us in our storms. Instead, he promises us that a) he will be with us through them (Matt 28:20), and b) ultimately, we'll make it to the other side (Romans 8:28-39).

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Here are some other ways you can meet with God throughout the week:

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Exodus 14:10-31
- Psalm 74
- Isaiah 51:9-11, 52:1-2
- John 16:16-33
- Romans 8:28-39
- Revelation 21:1-5

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for our local mission partner Project Belong as they support foster children and families seeking to adopt.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org

Not every storm we weather in this life will be resolved the way we want it to. The disciples just wanted help bailing water, but Jesus had something better in mind. Consider Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3. They hoped that God would keep them from Nebuchadnezzar's furnace, but he doesn't; instead, he enters into the furnace with them. Or as an even better example, consider Stephen in Acts 7. He was stoned for saying he beheld Jesus in heaven, and as he fell asleep in death, he woke up once again beholding Jesus in heaven.

Sometimes in life, but ultimately in death, Jesus brings us through to the other side. Stephen's story sounds more like a counter-example, but in Christ, there is no greater deliverance. Heaven is not a consolation prize. It's not compensation for the suffering we experience in this life. Heaven is our greatest hope—It is the perfect fulfillment of all God's promises, eternal peace and endless calm before the face of Christ.

Revelation 21:1 says "the sea was no more." God has promised to do away with all chaos, with every storm in your life. Whether in life or in death, if you are in Christ, you have nothing to fear: he's promised to calm the sea, he's powerful enough to do it, and he's proven he loves you

- What are the storms in your life which never seem to end? How are those storms causing you to fear and doubt?
- How might our hope in heaven quell our fears? How can you integrate our hope in heaven into your prayers about those persistent storms?

Action: Storms are always harder to weather when faced alone. Think of someone either within your Community Group or close to your Community Group who you can come along side through their storm. Find one or two ways to support them in addition to prayer.