



Calms the storms

Natural & Nurture

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

This lesson begins where our last one just left off with Jesus in Capernaum having just spent the day teaching by Parables.

✝ 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?”

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.

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

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

Mark 4:35-41 NIV

Mark written by John Mark from the Apostle Peter’s recollections on the authority of the Greek Church Bishop Irenaeus in the early 2nd century AD/CE which is backed up by Papias of Hierapolis a first century Greek Apostolic Father which means Papias’s work was known & unrefuted by any of the yet still living Apostles. (Mark spoke Greek & Peter did not & Mark’s mother owned the upper room in Jerusalem linking him to Peter)

According to each Irenaeus and Papias; John Mark was with Cephas aka the Apostle Simon Peter at the time of his historically confirmed Biblical incarceration in Rome while further that John Mark was indeed Peter’s interpreter including dictation of Peter’s account of the Ministry & life of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Mark was known to speak to the Roman’s heart and minds in Jesus’s Time.

As it does today for those wishing to get right to the point in a very direct way while additionally being heavy on honorable conduct while having quick action.

This being the case as for the Gospel of Mark, it is not surprising that Mark is shortest of the 4 Gospel accounts but yet surprisingly Mark will at times slow down and stress to impress certain otherwise unknown details of Christ’s narratives and teachings. (only Peter would have known these details.)

Including our lesson right here because Mark’s detail is greater than that of either Matthew or Luke. Which does makes perfect sense.

Because what else than Jesus actually controlling the weather would impress a pragmatic skeptic?

Likewise further here it is the NIV in these passages that shines most by having gotten closer to the original Greek in English than any other Biblical translation or version.

As in within the original Greek the Words of our Christ that He used to calm the storm were:

“ Silence! Be still!! ” (NIV = Quiet! Be still!!!)

A direct stern order to the Earth’s natural processes by Jesus at that time and place.

As for said scriptural storm on the Sea of Galilee with the hot middle eastern sun storms can blow up and violently erupt quite suddenly. With 1400’ tall mountains (Decapolis/Golan Heights) surrounding the Sea of Galilee at 600’ below Sea level thusly like a reverse chimney the cooler elevated dry air flowed over the mountains then funneling down into the hot humid air below.

Meaning even on clear sunny days massive winds can persist out upon the open water by which the Fishermen of Galilee had learned to use with their boats.

Also notice in Mark's account of how the very humanity, this being the frailty of Jesus as a mortal man is the starting point by which then Christ's Deity prevails over nature itself.

Jesus was exhausted from that day's preaching and teaching.

So, our Lord was in a fatigued state perhaps even annoyed at being each suddenly awakened by His Apostles who were in a state of fear and panic. This of course demonstrating their lack of judgement by which they should have respectfully in Faith had requested our Lord Jesus to "help us please."

Certainly not should they have chastised Christ with the exclamation "do you even care that we are all about to die?!"

First things first; remember these were Galilean fishermen who made their living out upon the water but yet they were now totally convinced & distressed that nothing could save them from being sunk.

The word that Mark used here in Greek to describe the ferocity of this storm was "earthquake."

As in the severity of this storm was severely rocking the boats and filling them with water to the point of almost sinking them.

Perhaps it was their humbled pride as in their own skill and abilities as Galilean fishermen having failed them and now with all hope gone this convincing them that they were lost?

This was finally when they in desperation not by Faith reached out to Jesus in the storm.

Why? Are we all guilty of doing this. Panic Prayer.

Even Christ's Apostles panicked in their petition unto Jesus during this storm.

Whenever evil or bad things happen Why? Do we always blame & or react as if GOD does not already know what is going on? When we are afraid, dismayed, hurt, disappointed, or even angry our natural response to those even subconsciously in authority over us is: "Do you not realize or even care what is happening to me or someone else who does not deserve this!"

Again Why? "GOD are you not concerned about this!"

First things first; this is an admission of GOD'S authority.

Even if this be a hostile speculative subjective concession.

Either by a dismaying believer or by a nonbeliever of GOD nor of His Authority when someone reacts in a natural negative way to evil, bad chance, or unfortunate circumstance happening to them or others.

You know the old classic: "Why does GOD let bad things happen to good people?"

"If GOD is real then why does He not do something about it right NOW!"

The truth is from GOD'S Holy Purity of perspective is anyone good?

✝ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. Romans 3:10-11 ESV

✝ For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 KJV

1. Therefor the Scripture texts above do explain that no one is "good" as in without Sin before GOD. Meaning before Holy GOD by His standards there are no good people who do not deserve this or that. Does GOD wish for bad things upon people? Normally not. Because by Biblical example it takes generations of Sinful vile unrepentant behavior before drawing GOD'S Wrath always when there is no hope of a collected group or even an individuals returning to GOD'S Law, Will, and Favor.

2. Which brings us to the real answer: "Freewill."

We are literally born in GOD'S image with intellect, will, empathy, & GOD'S breath of life (Soul) but minus Spiritual Life (Communion with GOD) until we find Spiritual Life in Jesus Christ.

We are "Free" to be who we are- Created to be with GOD, but to truly Love we must be free to chose not to love & not to be with GOD. So, Freedom means in this life we are free to be Sinfully evil to lie, cheat, steal, or even worse. Because Sin is literally born in each of us.

When we do wrong or are wronged in any fashion by another even though we as human beings may have a morality code of behavioral decency, or even an actual law against what has happened to us- It is ultimately against GOD and His Will & Law that ALL Sin in fact offends.

Because HE is the ultimate source and resource of morality, Justice, and fair play.

✝ Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;
According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness *and* guilt And cleanse me from my sin.

³ For I am conscious of my transgressions *and* I acknowledge them;
My sin is always before me.

⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned

And done that which is evil in Your sight,

So that You are justified when You speak [Your sentence] And faultless in Your judgment.

⁵ I was brought forth in [a state of] wickedness; In sin my mother conceived me [and from my beginning I, too, was sinful].

Psalms 51:1-5 AMP

✝ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

Galatians 5:13 NIV

3. Also we are frail and our bodies fail as in we get sick and die because of this Sin.

✝ Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all mankind, because all sinned— Romans 5:12 NASB

So, 1st we are born as Sinners- the capacity to Sin is within us. Case in point we do not have to teach our children how to be bad, but only to do what is right. Selfishness comes naturally.

Then 2nd by our own Freewill we continue to Sin, to transgress against GOD and His Law & Will even when we mature and know better. So no one is good in GOD'S eyes. By nature nor nurture.

Finally 3rd our perfect incorruptible bodies were lost by the Sin of our common parents Adam & Eve. The Bible clearly states imperfect people can not pro create perfect offspring but only corruption.

This is Why? We get sick, age, & then die.

Yet GOD in His Wisdom and with His Grace (Jesus) takes us- frail humanity into His family this being those whom believe & receive the Grace of our Sin's pardon by Christ in Jesus alone.

This is Why? When something terrible and dreadful happens even to the most seemingly innocent of people, when our conscience demands: "Where was GOD? GOD should have prevented this!!"

Because GOD is exactly in the same place in Heaven when a very part of Himself, Jesus- who lived a perfect sinless life as our Christ, was lied, denied, mocked, beaten and then brutally crucified.

Make no mistake; the sham trials, mistreatment as in undeserved punishment, & shameful execution of Jesus was, is, and ever will be the most grievous and terrible miscarriage of justice of all time.

Jesus is Sinless. Innocent & blameless of any evil or wrong at all. Yet He was crucified for our Sin debt.

Get it? GOD does not see Sin as we do as in who deserves misfortune or pain nor does He see death as we do. Those Saved go to Him while the unsaved who deny Jesus & His cross by Sin and freewill are lost.

Ok, as for the nuts and bolts of Christ controlling the weather on the Sea of Galilee:

Jesus calmed the storm with a few simple Words. Should this really surprise us?

Jesus is the Living Word portion of our Triune GOD (Trinity) born fully human & is fully Deity.

As the Living Word portion of GOD, Father Jehovah the Great I AM planned and then Jesus spoke and then Creation awoke. This Creation (time, space, matter) became from nothing but the Will and determination of GOD.

In fact did you know that everything we know about science is contained within the first ten words of Holy Writ?

✝ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 RSV

In the beginning ^{By GOD} (Time) GOD (Cause/Designer) created ^{Effect} (Force) the heavens (Space) and the earth. ^{Effect} (Matter)

* Included in design is Laws of Gravity, Ecology, Physics, Nature, Orbit, Morality –no reason for unless put in. & all Etc.)

All of Creation was made by the spoken Word of GOD.

✝ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. Genesis 1:3-5 NIV

GOD said, as in GOD spoke with His Word and by His Word (Jesus) then things became as He said. So Jesus was personally baffled that the Apostles did not readily know that He could control His creation. Still skeptical? That GOD can and will by His Will when He Wills control natural processes as He wishes?

The Revelating Apostle John knew Jesus on Earth and was taken to Heaven and saw Christ in His Glory explains for us:

Jesus is literally the Word of GOD.

✝ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

John 1: 1, 3, & 14 KJV

Just as Jesus was within that boat and calmed a literal storm, Christ our Lord can also calm a heart and mind that He resides inside.

Christ can calm the violent sudden storms in our lives, or he can see us through when the best <Way>< through is to just let the storm finish.

Storms can come to us in many ways, perhaps our relationships with others, or financial hardships, physical pain, emotional shame, intellectual disappointments, or even Spiritual struggle.

Christ will, can, & does calm chaotic storms within chaotic lives.

When we face our storms how will we react ? With Faith or fear?

Fear hinders all that we are and all we hold dear. Where as confident Faith calms the raging fears.

Faith & fear, fear & Faith do often go hand in hand and when your Faith prevails your fear fades.

This can be painful to admit; but it is more so through our storms that our confidence by Faith in GOD does grow. As in this is how we learn to trust in the Father ~ Son ~ Holy Spirit.

What grieves you with pain and strife, when the storms rage in your life, bring it before GOD on your knees, Pray to Jesus to calm the raging seas.