

I. A storm on the Sea of Galilee (verses 22-23)

- A. Setting: Lake Gennesaret (the Sea of Galilee).
- B. Apparently it is only the Twelve with Jesus at this point.
- C. Mark includes personal details that Luke and Matthew don't
- D. Jesus is HUMAN.
- E. Very low-lying and set between hills surrounded by plains, so susceptible to storms.
- F. Note: this is a real storm.

II. Terror and deliverance (verse 24)

- A. "Master" = "Chief"
- B. "We are perishing!" - terror of being utterly lost to this storm. And as Mark records, astonishment and dismay that Jesus is sleeping through it!
- C. Jesus "rebukes" the wind and waves.
  - i. There is something to rebuke. We think of them as just things that happen (i.e., you can blame human actions on someone, but there is nobody behind "natural" calamity like weather and disease).
  - ii. There is evil at work in what we call the "natural world" - in the weather, in earthquakes and volcanoes, in bodies that get sick and die, in birth defects.
  - iii. This is what Jesus rebukes. Mark's Gospel: "Peace! Be still."
- D. The wind and waves obey the Master.

III. "Where is your faith?" (verse 25)

- A. What *should* they have done? What would faith's exercise here look like? Confidence that they are safe with Christ (even through death).
- B. Do not be afraid.
- C. If you are strong, do not be impatient with those who are weak and fearful.
- D. Do not be afraid because Christ Jesus has gone through the storm already, so you are safe with Him.
  - i. This isn't positive thinking, a la FDR
  - ii. There is a right fear (Matthew 10:28)
  - iii. All of the disasters and miseries in the world cannot compare with the power of the risen Christ.
  - iv. Remember Jonah
  - v. Remember the Stones' song
  - vi. In *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the White Witch thinks she's won because she kills Aslan the great Lion: "deep magic from the dawn of time"
  - vii. Jesus may take us through death itself, but triumph is on the other side.
  - viii. Faith sets its focus on the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.