

Our Lord Stilling the Tempest Mark 4:35-41

by R.A. Torrey

Jesus' true humanity and divinity are revealed as He calms the storm and rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith.

Scripture: Psalm 46:1-3, Psalm 56:3, Psalm 107:29, Isaiah 41:10, Matthew 14:31, Mark 4:35-41, John 3:16, John 14:1, Philippians 2:6-8, Hebrews 4:15

Topics: "Faith in Crisis", "The Nature of Christ"

Description

R.A. Torrey explores the narrative of Jesus calming the storm in Mark 4:35-41, emphasizing the dual nature of Christ as both fully human and fully divine. He reflects on the disciples' fear during the tempest and their misunderstanding of Jesus' care for them, highlighting that true faith dispels fear. Torrey illustrates how Jesus' command over nature reveals His divine authority and reassures believers of their safety under His guidance. The sermon encourages Christians to trust in Jesus amidst life's storms, recognizing that He is always present and in control. Ultimately, it calls for a deeper faith that acknowledges Jesus' power and presence in our lives.

Transcript

DISCOVERY OF THE FACTS

1. Ecce Homo! vv. 35-39 What sort of day in the life of our Lord had it been? What did He say to His disciples at its close? Why did He wish to go to the other side? (5:1-20.) Why did He not go before evening? When even came after so busy a day what would He have done if He had followed the promptings of nature (v. 38)? Why did He not do that? Did He spend much time on that other side? (5:17, 18.) Did He make many converts over there? Did He not make a mistake in going? Did He feel repaid for His trouble? (5:15, 20.)

How many did He leave behind Him? How many did He minister to on the other side? Does God ever call His servants to leave a multitude in order to minister to just one soul? (Acts 8:6, 26-29.) What is meant by the expression "even as He was" in v. 36? Were the people willing to give our Lord up? What occurred when they got out into the lake? From whom did that storm come? (Job 1:12, 19; Ps. 107:24, 25; John 1:4.) How severe was it? Was there any real danger that the boat would go down?

Why not? How far can the devil go in his attempts to destroy or injure God's servants? (Job 1:10-12; 2:4-6.) Until when is a servant of God perfectly safe from all Satan's attempts to put him out of the way?

(John 7:30.) Need we then have any fear in the face of the most imminent peril? What was our Lord doing all this time? Why did He go to sleep? (John 1:14; Phil. 2:6-8; Heb. 2:17; 4:15; John 4:6.) Was His human nature real or only apparent? When did He take His rest? How had He become so weary?

Do many Christian workers weary themselves as our Lord did with incessant toil for God or perishing men? How could He sleep at such time and in such place? (Ps. 3:5, 6; Ps. 127:2.) Ought not He to have remained awake and kept on the watch for the perils that might arise on the voyage? (1 Peter 5:7.) What did the disciples do in their apparent danger? What ought we to do when in trouble? (Ps. 50:15.) Was there any wrong in the way in which they addressed our Lord? Was He indifferent to their safety? (John 18:8, 9; 10:11.)

Does He care if we perish? (John 3:16; Matt. 23:37.) Does it ever seem as if the Lord had forgotten His servants or was indifferent to their welfare? (Ps. 10:1; 22:1, 2; 77:7-10.) Does He forget? (Is. 49:14, 15.) 2. Ecce Deus! vv. 39-41 What did our Lord now do? Was He excited? Was He ever excited? (John 20:6, 7.) What is the literal meaning of the words translated "Peace, be still"? Did He use many words? Why was it necessary to speak to the sea as well as to the wind? Why did He rebuke the wind?

What else is He recorded as rebuking? (Mark 9:25; Luke 4:39.) Did He ask God to make the wind stop blowing and the waves to cease raging? Why not? What was the effect of His bare word? Who does this show Him to be? (Ps. 107:29; 89:9.) If Satan raised this storm what relation between Satan and the word of Jesus does this verse show to exist? Do we see the power of Satan anywhere else subject to the bare word of Jesus? (5:8, 10.) What was all that Satan had succeeded in doing by raising the storm?

Did our Lord perform this miracle to secure His own safety? Did He ever perform a miracle to protect or provide for himself? If we wish "a great calm" after the tempests that sweep over our souls how can we find it? Where else did our Lord administer a rebuke besides to the wind? What was it in the disciples that He rebuked? What change does the Revised Version make in His words? Was it not natural that they should be afraid? Was it justifiable? Were they in any real peril? What made it certain that they would reach the other side in safety (v. 35)?

When our Lord calls us to go to any place and we start at His command is there any uncertainty about our getting there? Has a believer ever any right to be fearful? (Ps. 46:1-3; 27:1-3; Is. 41:10; 43:1, 2.) What is the great cure for fear? (John 14:1; Is. 12:2; 26:3; Ps. 56:3.) What then did the fearfulness of the disciples reveal? If they had really believed in our Lord and appreciated Him would they have been afraid? If we really believe in and appreciate Him will we ever be afraid?

Was it time the disciples had faith? By what word did our Lord bring that out? (R. V.) Is there ever occasion for Him to put that question to us? Was it often necessary for Him to rebuke the unbelief of His disciples? (Matt. 14:31; 6:30; 16:8.) What was the effect of all this upon the disciples? What kind of fear was this? What question did they put to one another? (R. V.) What is the true answer to that question? (Ps. 89:9.) CLASSIFICATION OF TEACHINGS

1. Our Lord

(1). His nature:

His true humanity, 38; true divinity, 39, 41.

(2). His word:

Its power, directness and brevity, 39, 40.

(3). His character:

Unwearying zeal in well-doing, 35; unruffled calmness in great crises, unapproachable dignity, 39.

(4). What He suffered:

Exposure to tempest, 37; misunderstanding, extreme weariness, reproach, 38; disappointment at the unbelief of His disciples, 40.

(5). What He did:

Forgot His own weariness in others' need, 35; attracted multitudes to Himself, left the admiring multitudes to minister to one wretched demoniac, 36; seemed at times to forget His disciples, 38; never did forget them, gave deliverance at the last moment, turned the wild storm into a great calm, 39; rebuked the fearfulness and unbelief of His disciples, 40.

2. The Disciples

(1). What they enjoyed:

Perfect security in the face of apparent danger, 37, 40.

(2). The foolish things they did:

Misunderstood, reproached their Master, 38; indulged in unbelief, gave way to fear, 40.

(3). The wise things they did:

Called on our Lord in their peril, 38; recognized His divinity, 41.

3. Three Rebukes

The disciples rebuked our Lord for His imagined neglect of their safety, 38; our Lord rebuked the disciples for their real unbelief, 40; our Lord rebuked the wind, 39.

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