THE MIGHTY MASTER

OVER THE NATURAL REALM

 **DATE: 9/3/2017 – 10/8/2017 SS**

**TEXT: Mark 4:35-41**

**INTRODUCTION**

We are continuing to study the Gospel of Mark

Mark portrays Jesus as the Suffering Servant

But in this Lesson we’ll be looking at Him as **The Mighty Master**

Although He humbled Himself and took on the form of a Servant

We need to realize He is still the Creator of the Universe

As we continue following the Ministry of the Lord …

We now see there had been some long and difficult days

The events of these days began back in **Mark 3:20**

He had a confrontation with the Pharisees in **vs. 22-30**

His friends and family thought He had gone crazy and tried to kidnap Him in **vs. 21, 31-35**

This is also the first time when Jesus began to teach in parables

Spending time late into the night explaining His parable

… to His disciples / after the crowds left

During the day Jesus sat in a little boat just off the shore of the Sea of Galilee

He had used that boat as His pulpit as He preached to the great multitudes that had gathered to hear Him in **4:1**

When the day was over, He called His disciples to set sail for the other side

When darkness fell, the disciples were making their way across that little lake

While they guided the vessel, Jesus fell asleep in the back of the boat

**v. 38 – *“And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow:”***

He was weary from the busyness of the day

This is one of the clearest portraits of our Lord's humanity in the Gospels

And because of His Humanity, He understands our weakness

He is able to sympathize with us when we get tired

**Psalm 103:14 –** ***“For He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust”***

Most of the disciples were used to being on the Sea

They were fishermen

But something would happen that night that would change their lives and their perception of the Lord, forever

This miracle is the first of four that we will find in the coming Lessons

These four miracles would prove to the disciples, and to us, that Jesus Christ is Lord of all / The Mighty Master

They will demonstrate for us that He is the Master of every situation

That night, in the storm, the disciples found themselves in the fight of their lives

But they experienced the Lord's power to deliver them and they lived to tell

Let’s get into the boat with these men as they cross the sea

And let their experience teach us something

There is a sense in which we are all involved in a journey

We are all sailing toward an unseen port called Heaven

As we sail, storms will arise and toss our vessels

Like the disciples, we often think the storms are going to destroy us

I want you to know that our storms come, not to destroy us, but to develop us

I want to point out some great Truths from this passage

Teaching on the subject - **“The Mighty Master”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we see …

**I. THE “POWER” IN THE STORM – v. 37**

We all know that storms are occurrences of violent weather usually associated with powerful winds and rain

The storms of Life can also be associated with times of emotional or physical upheaval in our lives

Either way we face powerful forces that affect us greatly

We have all faced the Power of the Storm

First, let’s look at …

**A. Its ‘Suddenness’**

**v. 37a - “*there arose a great storm of wind*”**

**1.** Storms on the Sea of Galilee

Storms like this are very common on the Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is an unusual body of water

It is relatively small (13 miles long, 7 miles wide);

But it is 150’ deep, and the shoreline is 680’ below sea level

Because the Sea of Galilee is below sea level and is surrounded by mountains, it is susceptible to sudden storms

Winds sweeping across the land come up and over the mountains, creating downdrafts over the lake

Combined with a thunderstorm that appears suddenly over the surrounding mountains, the water can stir into violent 20’ swells

The sea can be calm one minute and violent the next

These storms usually do not happen at night

So, these men did not set out in a storm and they did not expect one either, but a storm came anyway!

**2.** Storms in our Lives

That's the way our life is too!

Things can be Fine one moment and the next, the bottom falls out

One minute you can be enjoying fair weather and the next, you find yourself in the middle of a Powerful storm

-- It’s Just one Phone Call away

-- It’s Just one Day away

-- It’s Just one Doctors’ Visit away

-- Just one tick of the clock

And there you are, in the storm of your life

(But) This shouldn't surprise us

The Bible says that storms will come

**Job 14:1 *– “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble”***

**Ecclesiastes 2:23 *– “For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity”***

**John 16:33 *– “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”***

In fact, you are in one of three places right now

You are either in a storm, just coming out of a storm, or headed into one

Sudden storms are a part of our lives

**B. Its ‘Severity’**

**v. 37b - “*the ship was now full*”**

**1.** This Storm on the Sea of Galilee

These seasoned fishermen are frightened by the severity of this storm

The ship is rocking and reeling; it is full of water and they are afraid it will sink

It was a violent storm and it was night time too

They could not see where they were or how close they were to the shore and the other ships around them – **v. 36b**

They were in terrible danger, and they feared for their lives

**2.** Storms in our Lives

When the storms of life come, they are often severe and cause us a great amount of anguish and pain

There are …

-- The *storms of Suffering* …

They blow into our lives and devastate us with heartache, heartbreak and turmoil

One problem will arise after another and they will bury us under a blizzard of affliction

Many could testify about the storms of suffering

Then there are the …

-- The *storms of Sorrow*

Someone you love is called away by death and it leaves you grief stricken and shaken by the loss

Sorrow touches every life!

Jesus was in their boat and they were still afflicted by a storm of sorrow

-- The *storm of Sin*

Still others are engulfed in a storm of sin

When sin enters our hearts, it always comes in as a pleasant, calm breeze

It promises us the best, but it soon displays its darker side

It will rip through your life like a tornado leaving a trail of destruction that can only be repaired by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and His forgiveness

Some are in that storm today!

So, the storms come and they bring with them Fear, Anxiety and Pain

I just want you to know that there is no storm on earth that Heaven cannot calm!

There is no problem so great that Jesus cannot fix

Bring that storm to Him and watch Him deal with it!

**C. Its ‘Source’**

**1.** Where did this storm come from?

*It may have happened naturally*

Like I have already said; the Sea of Galilee was susceptible to storms of this nature

However, it came at night and that was extremely rare

*God might have sent it* for the purpose of teaching these men to trust Him

Or, *the storm could have been satanic in origin*

When Jesus calms the storm in **v. 39** He said **“*be still*”,**

It’s the same Greek word that is used in **Mark 1:25** but is translated as **“*hold thy peace*”**

The word means *to be muzzled*

It has the idea of muzzling a violent animal

When Jesus used that word in **Mark 1:25**, He was using it to command demons to be quiet

Perhaps this storm was an attempt by Satan to destroy the Lord Jesus

The Bible does not reveal the source of this storm

The storms of Life can come from various sources

**2.** Where do our Storms come from?

*-- Sometimes the storms are our own fault*

We do things that get us into trouble and we have to pay the price

If you don't believe me, just read the book of Jonah

We always reap what we sow

Sometimes we cause the storms

*-- Sometimes God sends the storms*

Why would He do that?

Sometimes He does it to discipline us and draw us closer to Him

This was the case with David after he had sinned with Bathsheba in **II Sam. 11-12**

Sometimes He does it to teach us to trust Him more deeply

This was the case with Job and all that he was forced to endure

**Job 2:3 *– “And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst Me against him, to destroy him without cause”***

When God sends the storm it is always to draw us closer

*-- Sometimes Satan is Allowed to Send the Storm*

Satan will whip up a storm in your life to defeat you and drive you away from the Lord

He will do everything in His power to destroy you and your faith in God

We have a real enemy, who is seeking to defeat and destroy God's children and he will do whatever it takes to accomplish that,

**I Peter 5:8 *– “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”***

Satan is limited in his ability to torment us by the sovereign will of God though

**THE “POWER” IN THE STORM**

**II. THE “PROBLEM” WITH THE STORM – vs. 35, 38**

The greatest storm that night was not on the Sea

But in the hearts of the disciples

This storm on the sea whipped up a storm of doubt within them that threatened to drown them all

While the storm is raging around them, Jesus is fast asleep in the back of the boat

They run to Him and wake Him up

The word **“*awaken*”** means *to rouse from sleep roughly*

It was used to speak of *a calm sea that was just beginning to be agitated*

I believe the Bible is telling us that they went to where He was sleeping and they began to shake Him to wake Him up

These men are terrified and have lost all hope of ever surviving this storm

Let's examine the Doubts these men Faced

**A. They Doubted His ‘Goodness’**

**v. 38 - “*carest thou not*”**

**1.** They accused the Lord of not caring about what they were facing

Why this doubt?

After all, they had already seen His compassion and goodness in action

They had seen Jesus conquer Devils, Disease, and Depravity

Now, they are faced with a storm and they are afraid

They should have known that a puff of wind on a little pond could not thwart sovereign omnipotence!

Do you know what their problem was?

They were looking at the Situation and not to the Saviour

They had their thoughts on the Facts and not in Faith

**2.** Before we get too hard on these guys;

Perhaps we should consider our own hearts

Have there been times, when the storms are raging in your life, that you have questioned God's concern for you?

You might not have said it out loud, but I am sure there have been times when you thought …

“*Lord, don't you care about what is happening to me?*”

We've all been there!

I just want you to know that He does care!

He cares more than we can imagine

**Hebrews 4:15, 16 –** ***“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”***

He cares and He is doing something about the situation, even though you might not see it

Don't question His concern, He really does care!

**They Doubted His ‘Goodness’**

**B. They Doubted His ‘Grace’**

**v. 38 - “*we perish*”**

**1.** Remember, it was Jesus Who had sent them out onto the sea in the first place

These men had left everything to follow Jesus and now He has led them into (What Seems) a dangerous situation

They are afraid that Jesus is just going to let them all die

**2.** Jesus did not save us to abandon us when the going gets a little tough

He is absolutely committed to you and will never forsake you,

**Hebrews 13:5 –** ***“…for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee”***

The word **“*leave*”** means *to let sink*

The word **“*forsake*”** means that He won't *abandon you, desert you or leave you under any circumstances*

When the storm is raging; when your boat is sinking; when the adverse winds are blowing; when the waves are crashing against your vessel …

He won’t let you sink!

He will hold you up and never desert you under any circumstances

The Lord Jesus Christ is absolutely committed to us!

**3.** The Inhabitants of Jerusalem once felt forsaken by the Lord

Here is what they said and what the Lord said in reply

**Isaiah 49:14-16 – *“But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me”*
(God’s Response) *“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee” “Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of My hands; thy walls are continually before Me”***

If the Lord loved the nation of Israel, whom He had redeemed out of Egypt;

Don’t you think He will love and protect us

Whom He has redeemed by the blood of His Darling Son?

He is committed to us!

He’ll be with you and He will give you grace sufficient for your need

**II Corinthians 12:9 *– “And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me”***

**C. They Doubted His ‘Guarantee’**

**v. 35 - “*Let us pass over unto the other side*”**

**1.** Jesus had already told these men what was going to happen

He told them before the journey started that they were headed to the other side of the lake

If they had believed His Words, they could have shouted in the face of the storm

But for some reason …

(Maybe the suddenness of the storm)

… They Forgot the Promise of God

**2.** We act the same way!

The Lord has already promised us that everything is going to be all right

**Romans 8:28 *– “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose”***

**Genesis 50:20 *– “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive”***

**II Corinthians 4:15-17 *– “For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God”
“For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day” “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;”***

**Romans 8:18 *– “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”***

He has promised us that He will take care of us,

**Luke 12:32 *– “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom”***

If we could just learn to take Him at His Word,

Then we could face the storms of life without fear

We would understand Who controls the storms

And we could have peace, even while the winds are blowing and the waves are crashing

**THE “POWER” IN THE STORM**

**THE “PROBLEM” WITH THE STORM**

**III. THE “PURPOSE” OF THE STORM – vs. 39-41**

When they roused Jesus from sleep, He began to work

As He did, they found out some pretty amazing things about Him

These are the things that we need to find out for ourselves as well

As we face the storms of our lives, it will help us to know all we can about the One Who rides in our vessel

First, they Discovered …

**A. His ‘Power’**

**1.** To Calm the Storm

The storm that terrified these men posed no problem for the Lord

He rebuked the wind and spoke to the sea

When He did, the winds fell silent and the sea became calm

Just as easily as He had healed the sick and cast out the devils; He was able to control the storm

 **2.** Your storm is no problem for Him!

**Matthew 28:18 *– “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”***

**Genesis 18:14 *– “Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son”***

**Ephesians 3:20 *– “Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,”***

He can silence it with a word, if He wants

He may, however, desire to allow the storm to rage

When He does this, He is well able to protect you in the midst of the storm

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego — **Dan. 3**

Daniel in the lion's den — **Dan. 6**

**B. His ‘Promises’**

Just as He said, they’d passed over …

**Mark 5:1 –** ***“And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes”***

They learned that He was as good as His Word!

He still is!

Everything He has Promised He will do,

**Romans 4:21 *– “And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform”***

**Hebrews 6:18 *– “That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:”***

He will not back away from any Promise He has made in this book!

**C. His ‘Presence’**

When the Lord is in your vessel, you have an advantage

The Bible says in **v. 36** that there **“*were also with him other little ships*”**

There were many boats on that sea that night, but only one contained the Lord of glory

That boat was the place to be

As we sail on the sea of life, we need to remember that we are all in this thing

We are all on the sea, we are all in our boat, and we all are in a voyage together

We need to be sure that Jesus rides with us in our vessel

Having Jesus in your vessel makes all the difference

-- They were able to Call on Him because He was with them

-- They were able to see Him Move in Power because He was with them

-- They were able to experience His Peace because He was with them

Is He in your vessel?

If He isn't, how do you weather the storms that arise in your life?

**D. His ‘Purposes’**

The storm taught these men a lesson they could have learned no other way

It would have been nice if they would simply have believed Him after seeing Him do all the great things He did in chapters 1 – 3

It would have been great if they could have taken the things the Lord did for others and applied it to their own lives

If they could have said, “*You know, if Jesus can heal a leper, cure Peter's mother-in-law, cast out devils, …*

*… heal that guy with the palsy and forgive his sins, then I am sure that He can take care of this storm too*”

But, they seemed unable to process that information and apply it to their own lives

So, He sent them into this storm to teach them to trust Him

What about us?

-- We have the Bible / don’t we?

It tells us all the things He has done and can do

-- We have the testimony of others around us

We have seen what He has done for them

-- We have even seen Him move in our own lives

Wouldn't it be great if we could just trust Him?

We don't, so He uses the storms to teach us that we can lean on Him and trust Him to take care of us

When they arrived in Gadara they saw that demon possessed man

I wonder if they still doubted Him after the storm

When they saw Jairus come for help for his daughter, and even when she died, I wonder if they said, “*I believe He can take care of this*”

I think the storm increased their faith!

That may have been the purpose all along

If it wasn't the purpose, the Lord surely used it in that fashion

He does the same for us!

When we come to **Mark 6:48-51**, we find these same men in another storm

-- Again, they are afraid

-- Again, they are filled with doubt

-- But, this time, Jesus is not with them in the boat

-- Jesus comes to them and stills their storm

They are taught another valuable lesson:

Even when you can't see Him, He is still watching you and working on your behalf!

Sometimes, He sends the storms to educate us and to teach us to trust

His Purpose is not to hurt us, but to grow us

You can always trust the Lord to do right in the storms of life

**E. His ‘Peace’**

While they are fretting and fearing,

What is the Lord doing? He’s sleeping! Why?

He knows that He is in the center of His Father's will

He knows His Purpose in Life

He can sleep during the storm because He trusts His Father to take care of Him

If a situation doesn't rattle the Lord, we shouldn't allow it to rattle us either!

And, nothing rattles Him,

**Psalm 121:4 *– “Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep”***

**Psalm 127:1, 2 *– “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain” “It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so He giveth His beloved sleep”***

**F. His ‘Person’**

When Jesus calmed the sea, they were amazed and said

**“*What manner of man is this?*”**

They learned that He is the One Who is in control of every puff of wind; every angry wave and every storm

He is a good man to know!

He can corral the waves; lasso the winds and hog tie the storm

**CONCLUSION**

I don't know the nature of your storm, but I know Who can calm it

He is still the Mighty Master

If it is a storm of Suffering; He can ease your pain

If it is a storm of Sorrow; He can comfort your soul

If it is a storm of Sin; He can deliver you and set you free

Do you need to hear Jesus say **“*Peace, be still*”** to your storm?

If you do, bring it to Him and watch Him work

**THE “POWER” IN THE STORM**

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