

Alderwood Community Church

March 24, 2019

Faith Stretching Storms

Unexpected: The Gospel of the Servant King

Mark 4:35-41

(Page 815, 994, or 1005)

"We do not want you to be uninformed brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead."

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

Big Idea: God puts us in difficult and fearful situations so we will see his character and grow in our faith in him.

Sermon Questions:

1. What excites you most or concerns you most about the new ministry presented this morning?
2. Read v.39. What were the circumstances leading up to Jesus' calming of the storm?

Why do you think Jesus responded to the storm by falling asleep?

3. Several of the disciples were experienced fishermen and very familiar with the conditions on the Sea of Galilee. How do you account for the disciples' response that night on the Sea of Galilee? How did they view Jesus at this point?

How do you react when you face overwhelming situations and Jesus seems to be asleep in your life?

4. What do you think the disciples *should* have done in that moment? What do you learn that you can apply to your life?

5. Jesus would eventually hand His mission over to these 12 disciples. What do you think Jesus wanted them to learn about Himself through the storm experience?

What was it about this storm that made it an ideal learning situation?

What experiences has God used in your life to teach you more about Himself?

6. Mark tells us there were other boats enduring the storm with Jesus and the 12. They did not have Jesus in their boats. How do you think they responded to this situation as outsiders looking in? Is there a lesson for us here?
7. When you're facing a storm, do you tend to ride it out on your own or do you ask Jesus for help? What excuses have you used for not trusting Jesus in the midst of overwhelming circumstances?
8. What new insights have you gained from this study? Do you see any ways this applies to our church as we enter into the Alderwood Compassion Center ministry?

For next week: Read **Mark 5:1-20**. What do you notice about how the demon possessed man responds to Jesus? Is that what you expect? What do you learn here about Jesus' power and authority?