

What Storms Reveal

Case For Christ part, (Study of Mark's Gospel) part 15
February 6th, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

Insights from Mark 4:35-41 (Matthew 8:23-27, Luke 8:22-25)

Facts about the storms of life:

- they are I ...
- they are I ...
- they are I ...

Insights from a stormy evening:

- Faithfulness can lead us ...
- Storms reveal more of ...
- Storms reveal more of ...
- Faith is measured ...

How to be strong in a storm:

1. Remember God's C _____
(Psalm 121:2-3, Isaiah 26:3)

2. Remember God's C _____
(Psalm 103:13-14)

3. Remember God's C _____
(Isaiah 49:6, Matthew 5:14-16)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our fourth week of our 12 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few fun questions to get us warmed up :).

In the 'stormy story' in Mark 4:35-40, it started in the evening after a long day.

Speaking of long days, what was your 'longest day' since we met last? Why?

Speaking of storms and water coming in their boat, do you have a water story?

It could be a fun story where you enjoyed yourself on or around water :), or a not so fun story where you had to change your plans or call your insurance company :(.

As weather changes (i.e. from sunny to stormy in the passage from last Sunday) we are reminded that there are lots of different weather conditions.

What are some fun things you like to do on rainy days?

Reviewing and Reflecting on the Passage:

Let's read the passage from last Sunday. (Mark 4:35-41)

After reading this passage and looking back on your notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Jesus and the disciples are not the only ones that get 'caught in a storm'. Storms come in all shapes and sizes. David, in the OT, had his share of 'storms or trials' as he grew up and before he became king of Israel and after he became king.

In one trial, David was pursued by King Saul even though he was serving Saul and God by fighting the Philistine army.

Let's read his 'storm story' in 1 Samuel 24:1-22 and then read his response to the situation in Psalm 142:1-7 and reflect on a few questions.

David's trial was:

David's feeling about the trial:

David's response to God:

What did David do to overcome the trial?

How did God work through David's trial?

Now ... let's cross out the name David and write in our own name in the questions above as we answer the same questions about a trial we have gone through.

What are some of the valuable lessons we learned through our trials?

2. We were reminded last Sunday that storms are inevitable, impartial and immediate (some of them surprise us!). In Scripture we are often reminded that suffering was something the disciples experienced and something we also experience as followers of Jesus and at times just because we are in a broken world.

A helpful shift in our thinking is from hoping suffering doesn't happen, to being ready for when it does. How can the following passages (Romans 5:1-5, Hebrews 10:24-25, 2 Timothy 3:12-15, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18) better prepare us to face any suffering, trials or hardship that may come our way?

Which of these verses is most challenging to you and why?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?