

Storms and Stillness

Mark 4:35-41; 6:45-53

Intro: Two such stories cannot escape comparison.

There are many similarities, and also some significant differences.

Let us compare the two accounts and look for the lessons which can be of help to us.

I. The similarities

- A. Both accounts tell us of storms. The storms constituted trials which, to the minds of the disciples, threatened their very lives.
- B. The storms were events which most of the men would have had some experience. Some of them had been fishermen.
- C. Both storms were preceded by a period of teaching; the latter also by a miracle - feeding 5,000.
- D. It was due to a suggestion from the Lord Himself that the disciples got into the boats to cross the sea. AND EVERYTHING WAS PERFECTLY

CALM WHEN THEY STARTED!

- E. In both incidents the majority of people who heard the Lord's teachings did NOT share their experience. The disciples were singled out for this alone.
- F. Their combined efforts proved fruitless, and left them helpless.
- G. In neither of incidents was there any apparent reason - no sin, no rebellion, no disobedience. They were men who appeared to be in full sympathy with what the Lord was doing, and anxious to learn all that He was teaching.

II. The difference.

Basically, there was only one: In the first account the Lord was in the boat; in the second He was not.

III. The significance.

When you stop to think about it, in connection with our Lord's miracles, the disciples had two separate relationships

- (1) In some they were observing what He was doing for others. E.g., the demoniac, the blind, the sick, etc.

(2) In others they were the ones who were having the experiences

In considering this situation from the standpoint of Mark's Gospel, it all seems to have its roots in Mark 1:17 -

"Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men."

The Lord was preparing these men to reach other men. For this they needed training, and the training was to consist of observing, listening, and experiencing - not just taking a method, and going and doing!

They had to see what the Lord Jesus Christ could do for others, but they also had to learn what He could do for them!

NOW -

Have you ever been in a situation where you believed the Lord had led you?

You wanted to do His will?

His guidance had been almost as though you had heard the Lord tell you to get in the boat?

Every thing to begin with was

calm and peaceful -

- When suddenly - a storm broke loose which seemed to shatter all that you had been taught and everything you believed?

You struggled - but to no avail. It seemed as though all would be lost - and you were 100% confused, and thoroughly despondent?

I am sure many of you have been - some of you may be there this morning.

- If so, then you know how the disciples felt. All seemed hopeless.

Yet they would reason - but the Lord put us in the boat, and everything seemed just perfect to begin with! ~~and~~ they might even have doubted their guidance.

And will you note something which is of the utmost importance

IT WAS ALL JUST AFTER THEY HAD BEEN TAUGHT SOME WONDERFUL TRUTHS, AND AFTER THEY HAD HELPED THE LORD FEED A MULTITUDE WITH ONLY A BOY'S LUNCH.

- You see - God tested what they had been hearing and what they had

been doing in the storm of experience.

What was the reason?

Will you note the difference between the two incidents? And note also that not only was our Lord testing His disciples, but He was giving them the opportunity to test Him.

What bothered them in the first experience?

"Master (or Teacher), carest thou not that we perish?"

The Lord was there, there was no question about His presence -

But He was asleep? Doesn't He care? Have you ever asked the Lord this?

Here is the proof - v. 39, ch. 4

Normally it took ~~some~~ hours for the sea to settle after a storm - here the settling was instantaneous

He said - v. 40, ch. 4 - and they got the point from what they said in v. 4¹.

It is thought that John Mark got his material from Peter. If so, how significant are the words in 1 Pet. 5:7 - for it matters to Him about you.

But what about ch. 6?

- There the scene is the same, but Jesus is not present - and the disciples are terrified, not even recognizing Him when He does come.

But the question is not, not - does He care, but, does He even know?

Oh, again the answer is yes!

When did He find out? Right when it happened. READ 6:47, 48.

- They were so confused they didn't know enough to call on Him, but He came anyway.

Often we are so confused we can't pray.

BUT HE KNOWS, HE CARES, AND HE WILL ALWAYS BE THERE RIGHT WITH YOU.

But see 6:51, 52. Their distress came because they failed to remember what they had just been taught that very day.

- It is very possible that before this day ends some of us may be tested along these very lines - doubting

if He knows, or if He cares.

If so come back to Mark 4 + Mark 6
and marvel with thanksgiving at
a ~~servant~~ who often sends us
into the storms so that we may
learn to know + trust Him more
- and thus be better at fishing
for men.