



Mark 4:35-41

A. The Twelve were great students in the classroom. They listened eagerly and responded favorably. However, life isn't lived in the controlled environment of the classroom. Life is lived on windswept seas. Life is lived in the pressure-cooker of conditions that are constantly changing. Life can be very scary and stormy. In fact, life can be so scary and stormy that you begin to wonder if you're going to survive.

B. Mark reports on Twelve men who didn't think they were going to survive. How quickly faith—which worked so well in the classroom—turned to fear. How quickly calm turned to chaos. Thus, on a stormy night on the Sea of Galilee, they thought they had met their end. However, on a storm night on the Sea of Galilee, they, instead, met their Maker and Master. They came face to face with the only One who can calm the storm.

I. They Were Worriers (So Are We !)

- A. "Do not be anxious" -Jesus admonishes in the Mountain message. "Be anxious for nothing" writes Paul in Philippians. However, what is easy to read is not so easy to live. How quickly we allow the storms of life to obliterate our faith.
1. There are people who worry away their lives. Why?
 2. **Welcome to life!** Here's a revelation: "Life is hard!" As a result, worries and anxieties are everywhere. And if you let them, they will sink your ship.
 3. Have you ever worried about health issues, family concerns, or personal fears? What about issues relating to "the four "D's" -divorce, disease, depression, or death? Just because we're Christians doesn't give us immunity from the "issues" of life.
- B. The lesson learned by the Twelve on a "field trip" across the Sea of Galilee is the same lesson we must learn. We aren't in control, but God is.

II. When Faith Gives Way to Fear

- A. The whole chapter (Mark 4) focuses on faith—the parable of the sower (v.19), the parable of the seed (vv.26-27), and the parable of the mustard seed (vv.30ff)—it's all about: faith! But does this kind of faith work in the "real world"?
- B. The storm, v.37 (see also Matt.8:24). The Twelve had seen storms on Galilee before, but not something of this magnitude. And these were no "Johnny-come-lately" weekend pleasure boaters. They were in trouble. The boat was filling up—which meant they were going down.
- C. And where was Jesus in the midst of panic? Sound asleep... What He did next scared them more than the storm.

III. Lessons for Us

- How quickly _____ can turn to _____.
- God's _____ doesn't mean He's not _____.
- Storms can only be calmed by the _____.