

PART TWO | JESUS + FEAR | FEBRUARY 18, 2018

TO LOOK AT FEAR THROUGH THE LENS OF ONE SPECIFIC STORY IN THE GOSPELS (MARK 4:35-41) AND TALK ABOUT HOW WE CAN RESPOND WHEN CHAOS ERUPTS AROUND US AND FEAR RISES UP WITHIN US.

FAST & FIERCE (Mark 4:37)

- Disciples were in over their heads when the storm hit, even though some of them were experienced fisherman on this very lake - they were afraid they were going to die
- Chaos is front and centre and we can't seem to look past it
- Turner, 19th Century artist - Stormy Seas with Blazing Wreck - when chaos erupts in our lives we often see it like this painting, dark and sad with little to no hope in sight

DON'T YOU CARE? (Mark 4:38)

- Not a cry for help, but rather a protest against Jesus' apparent indifference
- When chaos erupts in our lives we try to deal with it on our own - when that doesn't work we look **at** Jesus instead of **to** Jesus
- Interesting - Jesus slept through the violent rocking of the boat, raging winds, crashing waves and arguing disciples but woke up when his disciples cried out to him - he does the same for us!
- Psalm 29 "Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid for you are close beside me"
- Jesus rests because he knows the promise of God at work in the storm and we can rest knowing that God is present with us in the midst of our storm.

TRUST ME (Mark 4:40)

- Jesus wasn't bothered by the fact that his disciples were afraid - fear is a natural response to the things that overwhelm or threaten us - he was troubled by the fact that in their fear they failed to trust him. They lost sight of who he was.
 - "The God that works in you is greater than the circumstances that come at you" *Christine Caine*
 - God is greater
-

- Trust is letting go of how we see God in the midst of our chaos and holding tightly to who God reveals himself to be in scripture; it's taking God out of the box we put him in. It's giving Him the freedom to move in the way he wants to move knowing that He has our best interest at heart.
- We may not understand His ways, but we can take comfort knowing that He is good.
- God may choose to calm our storm or ride it out with us but whatever He does we need to know that He is good and He is great.

WHOA (Mark 4:41)

- "Who is this man?" - not an "AHHH" kind of fear, but "Whoa!" - this was a reverent fear of Jesus
- In their minds only God (YHWH) had power over the elements - suspect it was the first time they realized that God was in their boat and it terrified them in the most wonderful way.
- God Almighty, the ONE who controls the elements is present in our chaos. He is with us now in the person of the Holy Spirit. He is an every present help in times of trouble, greater than any evil thing that comes against us and He is close beside us.

OTHER SIDE (Mark 4:35)

- Right from the get go Jesus promised that they were going to get to the other side.
- There is an "other side" to the chaos we face
- Big picture - story of salvation
- God is bringing us into harbour, into new creation safety
- Jesus has the victory and we have the victory in Jesus - one day chaos will be silenced forever and darkness will be no more
- Fear not, because God... - powerful and comforting statement if we allow it to be a reality in our hearts.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had a time in your life when chaos erupted around you and you felt like you were in over your head? How did you deal with that?
2. What are some examples from your own life when you looked at Jesus instead of to him?

3. Trusting God can be hard especially when all you see is the chaos around you. What does the Bible reveal about who God is? Why can we trust him? (write these down as a reminder)
4. Have you ever had a "Whoa" moment? If so, please share (if you're comfortable doing so).