

June 3, 2018 – Elmont Baptist Church

Message Series: The Gospel of Mark

Week 19: “Why Are You So Afraid?”

Text: Mark 4:35-41

We have launched into unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. Mark’s audience is Romans believers, and as theologian Danny Akin says, “he is telling them that Jesus is the Messiah King and suffering servant who actively ministers on our behalf and gives his life as a ransom for many.”

A few weeks ago we started into one of two of sections of extended teaching that Mark records in his writing. Jesus tells 4 parables. A parable uses everyday objects, activities, or circumstance to teach a spiritual truth. In the first parable we were able to see that the sower is Jesus, and anyone who shares the gospel, announces the Kingdom of God, and there are 4 types of soil – 3 unbelievers, 1 true believer.

Jesus has just finished teaching through three parables about who He is for those who are ready to receive it and really listening. He is teaching them that He is worthy of all worship and glory, something only reserved for God, Yahweh, in their minds – meaning Jesus is God! Now Jesus is going to show or illustrate the truth of who He is through miracles. These miracles are going to show His authority over nature, satan/demonic power, over disease, and over death.

Following Jesus will Involve...

✓ **Going where He Leads – v 35**

- **Even into a storm**
- **Knowing it’s never accidental**

Who is it that tells them where to go? Jesus! Why would He lead them into a storm? Does He really know the storm is coming? The best answer is “Yes”, because it’s brings glory to Him. Then why? The goal of God’s will is not your safety and happiness. The goal of God’s will is making much of His name. And when that is your goal, then with your life or with your death, God being glorified is the goal.

✓ **Being Satisfied in His Presence – v 38**

- **Not in being delivered from trouble**
- **But in being deepened in Him**

Point out – Jesus is tired. He is sleeping because He lived like we do. He was hungry, He was tired, He laughed, He cried. He was fully human, but without sin, because He was also fully God. But He could sleep in a storm because He knew it wasn’t God’s will for Him to die in a shipwreck, but rather on a cross. You don’t know when your time is up,

but if you’re a Christ follower, then you know the God who does. And here the deal... you won’t die a moment sooner or a moment later. The disciples aren’t satisfied in that thought. They question Jesus’ love for them. They are struggling to believe in Him as their peace. Their lives minds won’t be fully convinced until they see the resurrected Jesus and won’t be fully changed until they receive the power of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. We have the full story. When difficulty causes you to doubt if God loves you, understand you’re shortsighted and too in love with you.

✓ **Worshiping in Amazement at His Power – v 39-41**

- **Ask for and expect great things**
- **But worship Jesus, not the miracle**

All this doesn’t mean we sit in our difficulty and never ask God to deliver us out of our pain. We should ask Him, and we should expect great deliverance. And along with that prayer for deliverance, should be the prayer for patience until the deliverance comes and grace to bring God glory as long as the pain lasts.

Bottom line:

Christ followers go where Jesus leads, grow in satisfaction in Him, and worship in amazement at His power. Do going, growing, and worshiping describe you?

Thinking it Through...

- ✓ **If God’s will for you doesn’t include safety or security, will you still say “yes” to Him?**
- ✓ **Would you rather be a storm with Jesus or in a pleasant circumstance without Him?**
- ✓ **Are you asking God for great things and for the grace to endure until they happen?**