

A Controlled Storm

And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow...

Mark 4:37,38a

Storms can be fearful events for several reasons. We not only dread their potential for great destruction but also that we are proven helpless when in the pathway of their wrath. Storms are indiscriminate in the scope of their damaging force affecting all ages and all property. Adam's transgression brought a curse that interrupted the perfection of man and his environment. Yet God, who is ever the supreme superintendent of all creation, allows storms for His intended purpose.

In today's account, the Lord Jesus used a storm as a lesson designed for the apostles and us as well today. The magnitude and intensity of the storm brought fear to the apostles, including those who were fishermen. Amid this distressing situation, Jesus was fast asleep on a pillow in the back of the boat. Having already witnessed His divine healing power, they awaken the Lord, appealing to His ability to deliver them from the ravaging storm. Rising, the Lord utters those three powerful yet comforting words "peace, be still". As a great calm suddenly occurs, He then questions the apostles concerning their fear and their faith. The Lord's probing questions bring to the surface their underlying fear and deficient faith. They did not respond to His questions but marveled among themselves that the wind and sea obeyed the Master.

When we became believers, we also were being called to the other side of this life, to set our feet on heaven's shore. The Lord will travel with us on our journey. There will be times when unexpected storms will arise that can cause fear challenging our faith. The storms of life come in different forms and fashions, sometimes external and other times internal. Health, relationships, finances, and other forms of threats can interrupt our peace and assault our faith. At times it may even appear that the Lord is sleeping, but in reality, He neither slumbers nor sleeps. The One who promises to never leave or forsake us is still with us in the ship, and He is still in control of every situation. These out-of-our-control storms are meant to teach us to be more dependent on the One who is in control. Calling out to Him and awakening Him is always our best option.

No matter what situation confronts us today, or shortly, let us remember that the Lord who uttered "peace, be still" is in complete control of our situation.

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