

Essentials, Week 1

Title: Fear the Lord

Text: Mark 4:35-41

Introduction

- Jesus calls the disciples into the boat: **His will sometimes leads us into storms.**
- This story raises the key question: **“Who is this?”**

Walking Through the Passage

1. **Verse 35** Jesus calls the disciples to cross into Gentile territory.
 - They are reluctant, yet this is **His call and will.**
2. **Verse 36** The boat: small, vulnerable (26' long, 7' wide, 4 oars).
 - Not built for storms!
3. **Verse 37** A “furious squall” (like a hurricane) suddenly arises.
 - The Sea of Galilee’s geography makes storms common and violent.
4. **Verse 38a** Jesus is **asleep on a cushion.**
 - Shows His exhaustion and His trust in the Father.
 - *If Jesus isn’t panicked, why should we be?*
5. **Verse 38b** The disciples panic: “Don’t you care if we drown?”
 - Fear leads to doubt, accusation, and rudeness.
 - Discipleship is a **slow process** of learning who Jesus is.
6. **Verse 39** Jesus rebukes the storm: *“Quiet! Be still!”*
 - With just two words, He hushes a hurricane.
 - Like a parent calming a child: *“Shhh. Be still.”*
7. **Verse 40** Jesus questions their fear and faith.
 - The word for “afraid” means **cowardly.**
8. **Verse 41** Now they are **terrified** of Jesus.
 - First afraid of the storm, now in **astonished reverence of the Lord.**
 - Key question: *“Who is this?”*

From Fear to FEAR

- Negative fear: of circumstances, paralyzing, full of anxiety.
- Positive fear: awe, reverence, worship before the Lord.
- A.W. Tozer: “Astonished reverence.”

Essential #1: Fear of the Lord

- Over 300 verses call us to fear God.
- Examples:
 - **Deut. 10:12** Fear, obey, love, serve the Lord.
 - **Prov. 9:10** Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
 - **Eccl. 12:13-14** The whole duty of man: fear God and keep His commands.
- Fear of the Lord = **living in continual reverence, awe, and honor of Him.**

Benefits of Fearing the Lord

1. **Provides wisdom** (Prov. 9:10).
2. **Keeps us from sinning** (Ex. 20:20; Prov. 16:6).
3. **Provides protection** (Ps. 34:7).
4. **Provides abundant life** (Prov. 14:27).
5. **Provides contentment** (Ps. 34:9).
6. **Provides health** (Prov. 3:7-8).
7. **Leads to intimacy with God** (Ps. 25:14).

How to Grow in the Fear of the Lord

1. **Get into His world** – spend time in creation to remember His greatness.
2. **Get into His Word** – Scripture draws us into His presence and power.

Conclusion

- Jesus cares deeply: their cry woke Him, not the storm.
- The cross is ultimate proof: *“Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you”* (1 Pet. 5:7).
- The essential starting point for following Jesus: **Fear the Lord.**