

Campfire Tales: Stories the Disciples Told: - Wave Runner

Mark 4:35-41

If you'd like to compare the parallel texts, after you read Mark 4 take a look at Matthew 8:23-27 and Luke 8:22-25. How are the texts similar and how are they different?

How comfortable are you around water? Do you enjoy swimming? boating? picnicking?

How are you with storms? We've just had a couple of storms roar through the region, each bringing with them high winds and a couple of inches of rain. Do you enjoy a good storm or do they frighten you?

Imagine the disciples, some who were fisherman, at night, on the sea far, from shore when the squall kicks up. Certainly, they were adept at navigating the waters, but how well equipped were they emotionally and spiritually to handle the storm?

Think of the contrasts in this story. The disciples were moving from a crowd on the shore to isolation on the sea. There was the appearance of calm then the storm. The disciples were afraid then Jesus was scolding them for their lack of faith.

How often do you seem to get stuck between the extremes where something appears to be one thing but then becomes something else?

How is it that we, like the disciples, feel like we're prepared until something hits us and we quickly learn that we aren't prepared at all? Is there a story in your life that illustrates that?

One of the biggest contrasts in this story is the display of Jesus human nature – after a long day of preaching, teaching and healing he's exhausted and needs to sleep, and the divine nature – when called upon, commands the waves and wind to settle themselves.

Has there ever been a time that you've cried out for Jesus to "show up" and rescue you from a threatening situation? Did that strengthen your faith?

Consider the past couple of years of life at FRC. Have they been stormy or calm? Did you ever think Jesus was napping when you needed him? Have you wanted Jesus to "show up" in a particular way and were surprised that he showed up differently?

Pray that we, the disciples in the boat called FRC, can lean into our faith and not fear as we navigate the crossing of this Sea of Transition.