

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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Series #3 - LIVING ABOVE OUR FEARS

“WHY ARE YOU SO FEARFUL”

Mark 4:35-41

I am preaching a series on “Living Above Our Fears” and this is the third message in that series. I want to ask the question that Jesus asked His disciples when He said to them:

“Why Are You So Afraid?” V-40.

I see today, yes, this morning that people are afraid and filled with **FEAR** rather than **FAITH**; but listen my beloved **faith** will always overcome **fear**

Let’s climb into this boat this morning with Jesus as He takes us to the other side. Jesus obviously has some plans for His disciples that they don’t know about. **In this passage we’ll discover five truths about God’s plans for modern-day disciples.** We’ll see that if Jesus is who He says is, then we have nothing to fear not even Covid 19.

I. HIS PLAN MAY BE PUZZLING

In this 4th chapter Jesus teaches in parables and one of them was about the sower and the soils where Jesus used a boat as a pulpit because there were so many people crowding around Him **V-1**. Now Check out **verse 35** – **“And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.”** The “other side” was unsettling and uncertain so they’d rather stay away.

II. HIS PLANS OFTEN INCLUDE PROBLEMS

The Sea of Galilee was really a lake but was called a sea because it had a lot of the same characteristics. It was 13 miles long and 8 miles wide. It’s the lowest freshwater lake in the world and was known for its severe storms.

And when storms come, they often are:

- **SUDDEN**
- **SEVERE**
- **SURPRISING**

III. HIS PLAN COMES WITH HIS PRESENCE

Where is Jesus when the storm comes? He’s taking a power nap in the back of the boat -**Verse 38**. Friend don’t confuse God’s silence with a lack of compassion. He cares deeply for you **1 Peter 5:7**. Whenever you’re sinking under problems, remember this phrase: **Don’t despair, Christ is there!**

IV. HIS PLAN DEMONSTRATES HIS POWER

I love how Jesus slept through the storm but as soon as his children cried out, He woke up. That reminds me of how mothers can sleep soundly but when they hear just a whimper from their newborn they pop out of bed-**Verse 39**. **Remember** what He creates, He controls. When he rebuked the wind and the waves they bowed before Him.

V. HIS PLAN HAS A PURPOSE

The greatest storm that night was not on the Sea of Galilee but in the souls of the disciples. The last two verses of **Mark 4** give three purposes behind the plans God has for us.

• **HIS PURPOSE is: To deal with our fear.** After rebuking the storm, Jesus rebukes the disciples by asking two questions in **verse 40**. **Don’t you think that Jesus words here show that He was somewhat disappointed with them.** I mean He had been teaching them about faith and commitment in the parable of the sower and the seed and here we see the results – **fear and faithlessness.**

• **HIS PURPOSE is: To grow our faith.** And here’s His second question: **“Do you still have no faith?”** Fear can gut our faith; and faith can force out our fears.

• **HIS PURPOSE is: To increase our awe.** One pastor has said that the only thing worse than having a storm outside your boat is to have the Lord Almighty inside your boat and being afraid. **AMEN!**

As we wrap-up, let’s focus on some life lessons that come from this passage.

- 1. Christ cares for you and can help in your crisis**
- 2. Christ is in complete control of everything**
- 3. We all must go through storms to get to the other side**
- 4. If you’re going through a storm you better have Jesus in your boat**
- 5. Make sure that Jesus is steering your ship**
- 6. Jesus won’t always calm the storm, but He will calm you**