

Mark 4

Lesson for Sunday, June 25, 2023

CHAPTER SUMMARY: Jesus shares four parables: the farmer and the seed, a lamp on a stand, growing seeds and a mustard seed. He amazes His disciples by calming a fierce storm.

1. Jesus relates His parables (vs. 1-34)
 - a. Parable of the sower and the seed (vs. 1-20)
 - i. Information in the parable (vs. 1-12)
 - ii. Interpretation of the parable (vs. 13-20)
 - b. Parable of the lamp on a stand (vs. 21-25)
 - c. Parable of the growing seed (vs. 26-29)
 - d. Parable of the mustard seed (vs. 30-34)
2. Jesus reveals His power (vs. 35-41)
 - a. The crisis (vs. 35-38)
 - b. The cry (vs. 38)
 - c. The calm (vs. 39-41)

BIBLE STUDY: Mark 4:35-41

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ Most of us are familiar with the miracles of Jesus. As a topic to get the class talking and thinking, ask them which of Jesus's miracles is the one that they most often refer to and why.
- ⇒ When we think about the miracles of Jesus we often think about His healings. The blind could see, the deaf could hear and the lame could walk! It's hard to imagine!
- ⇒ But when we look closer through the Gospels, we see that Jesus had power over every aspect of this world. He exhibited power over disease, demons, death, distance, and even natural disasters.
- ⇒ Mark 4 contains an account of when Jesus calmed the storm. An easy application is that Jesus will get us through the storms of life. That is certainly true! But that is not the primary takeaway we should have! The question is always: What does this teach us about Jesus?
- ⇒ Let's look at these verses through that set of lenses...

OUTLINE:

1. The crisis (vs. 35-38a)
 - a. The stormy sea (vs. 35-37):
 - i. Jesus has had a full day of teaching. It is now evening and He and Twelve need to get some rest.
 - ii. Jesus and His disciples suddenly encounter a furious squall while crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat.
 - iii. We get a picture of the severity of the storm from the reaction of the disciples – many who were professional fishermen!
 - b. The sleeping Savior (vs. 38a): Jesus is asleep at the back of the boat. This is a beautiful reminder of the humanity of Jesus. Yes, He is God. But He is also man and, in His humanity, Jesus got sleepy.
2. The cry (vs. 38b)
 - a. Filled with fear, they shout to Jesus: "Don't you even care that we are about to drown?"
 - b. The disciples had a very human response to their crisis. We often react similarly when we face conditions we cannot control.
 - c. Notice how quickly they forgot who Jesus was! Their reaction was not very spiritual.
 - d. In their questioning, they call into doubt Jesus's love and concern for them. If we are honest, we often react just like the disciples.

3. The calm (vs. 39-41)
 - a. The rebuke (vs. 39): He rebukes the wind and sea telling it to calm down. The word “rebuke” is the same word we saw in 1:25 when Jesus rebuked the demons. If Jesus sleeping was a reminder of Jesus’s humanity, this act reminds us of His deity. Jesus has all-power!
 - b. The reproof (vs. 40): After addressing the storm, Jesus turns to address His disciples for their lack of faith. In the eye of the storm, instead of trusting Him, they accused Him of forsaking them (vs. 38).
 - c. The reaction (vs. 41): They are filled with awe at His power. The verse describes the disciples as terrified. At this point in their relationship with Jesus, it seems they are still unsure of exactly who He is.

LESSONS FROM THE STORM:

- ⇒ Point out how detailed Mark is in describing this event. Remember that Peter was the most likely source for Mark’s gospel.
 - He remembered the time of day (vs. 35 – evening).
 - He remembered the pillow in verse 38.
 - He remembered the place where Jesus slept (vs. 38 – the hinder part).
 - He especially remembered the less-than-flattering picture of the disciples (vs. 40).
 - ⇒ This is not a “story” but a real event at a real time in actual history.
 - ⇒ What lessons are there for us to remember from this text?
1. God is working in the circumstances of our lives.
 - a. Have you ever thought about why they were in the boat in the first place? Verse 35 indicates that this was Jesus’s idea!
 - b. Plot twist! Jesus was the One who led them into the storm! This is a powerful reminder that God is always working and always in control.
 - c. We should not be alarmed by the surprises of life.
 2. Jesus is God. This text reminds us of both the deity and humanity of Christ which is a critical piece of our Baptist doctrine.
 3. God is omnipotent: If Jesus can calm a storm, why do we worry?
 4. We panic when we lose faith in the One we should trust.
 - a. If God is always working (pt 1), Jesus is God (pt 2), how should this impact how we react to the circumstances of life?
 - b. Accounts like this should remind us of Who God is and what He is capable of. Like Jesus, we should sleep well in the storms.
 5. The issue we must all settle: Who is Jesus Christ?
 - a. The disciples were not 100% sure at this point. It would not be until the resurrection that they would be completely solid in this part of their thinking.
 - b. The question of verse 41 is the question we must all be able to answer.