

The Servant King



Part 13

Lord of the Storm

Mark 4:35 - 41

The story of the **King**... who came to **serve**.

Irrelevant Detail

time of day (v.35)

reference to Jesus' "I was" (v.36)

the "other"

real event
real history
real place

the position

at

ment

s was lying on

the whining of the disciples, and their
fear and confusion (v.38)

Irrelevant Detail

time
re

Lesson: legends and fiction will not carry us through difficult times. If we're going to survive the storms of life that threaten to destroy us, our lives must be anchored on something that is absolutely true.

on

the warning of the disciples, and their
fear and confusion (v.38)

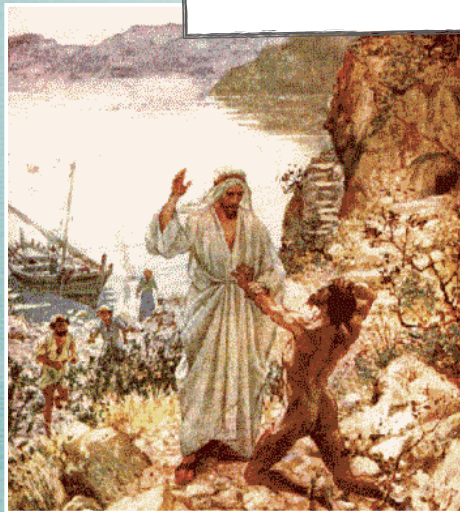
Death * Desperation * Fear & Faith

The NIV Application Commentary, David E. Garland, p. 190

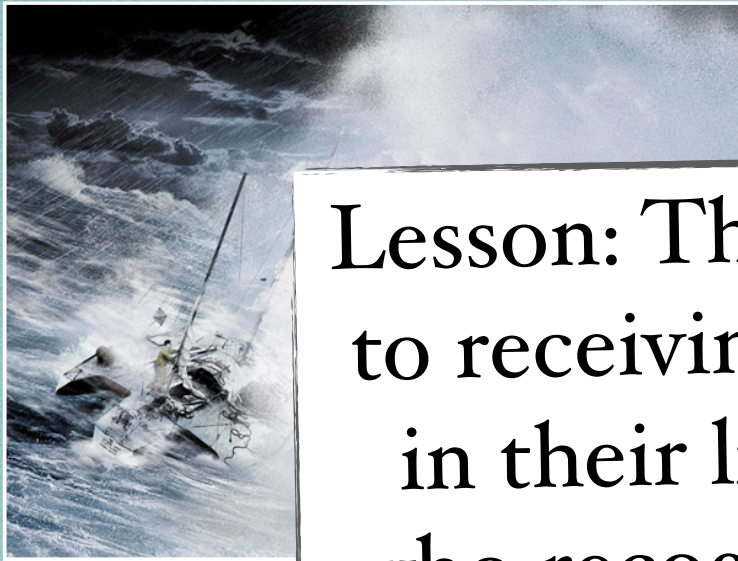
Death * Desperation * Fear & Faith



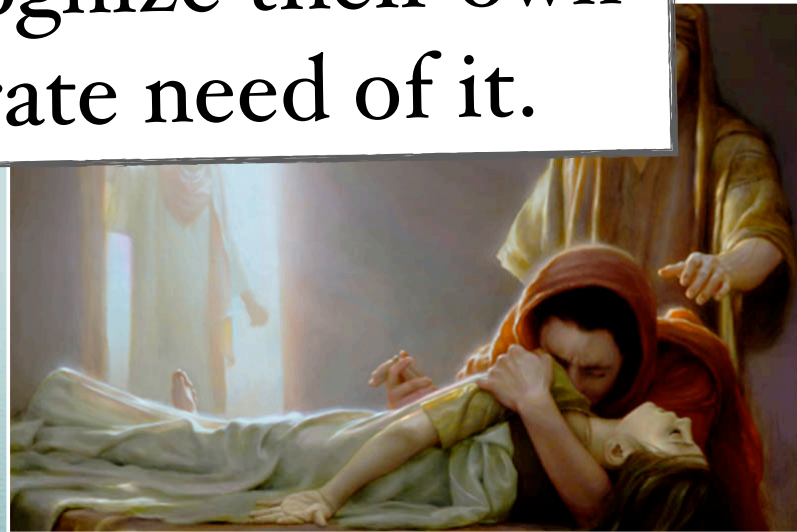
Lesson: Jesus is equal to
any threat that may
shatter our lives.



Death * **Desperation** * Fear & Faith



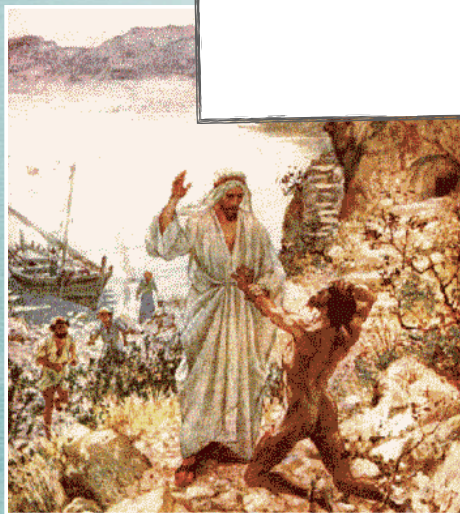
Lesson: Those most open to receiving Jesus' power in their lives are those who recognize their own desperate need of it.



Death * Desperation * **Fear & Faith**



Lesson: Jesus is the uncontrollable, all-powerful God . . . our view of him is much too small.





Mark 4: 35 & 36

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.”

³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat.



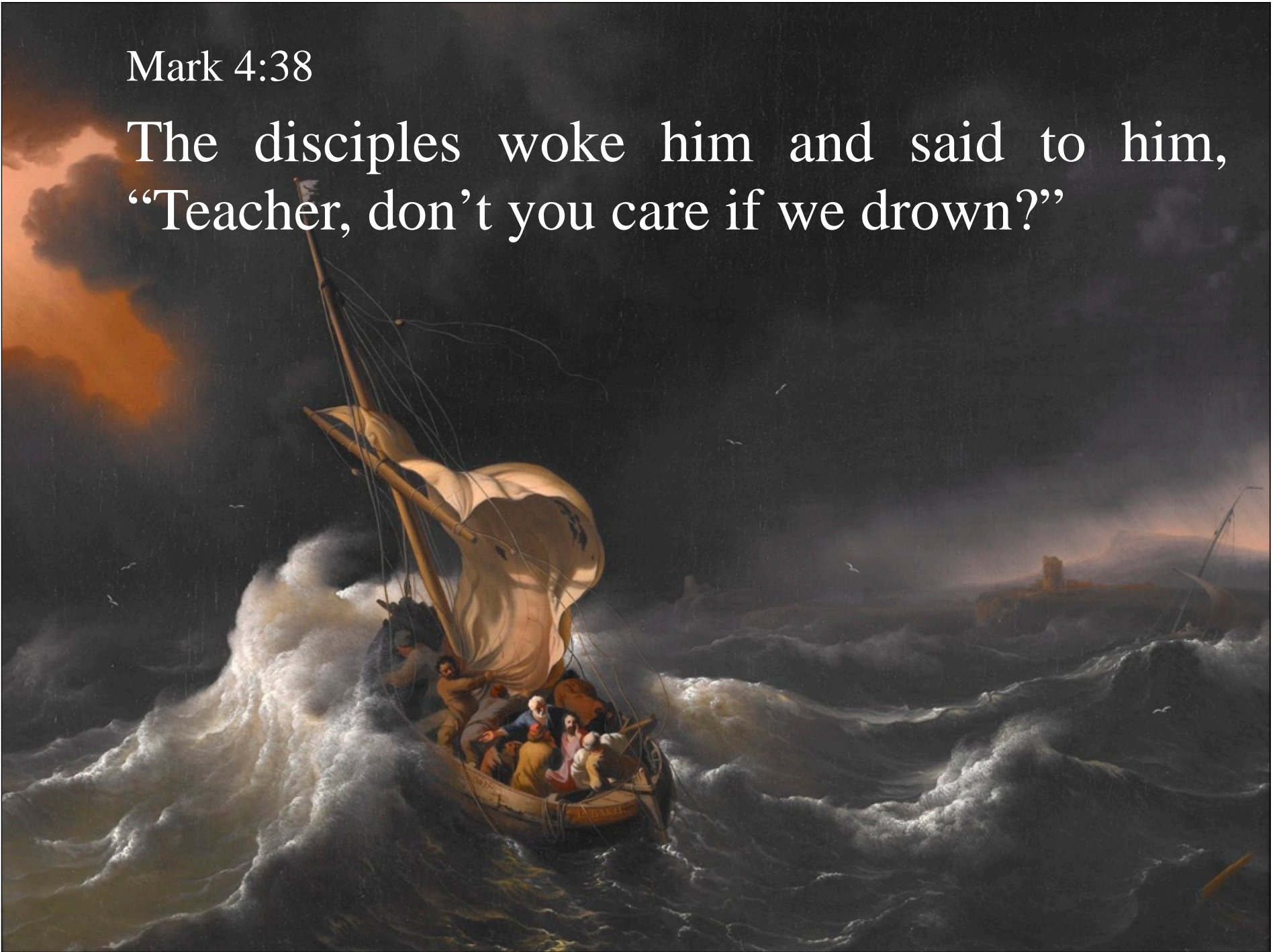
Mark 4:36 & 37

³⁶ There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.



Mark 4:38

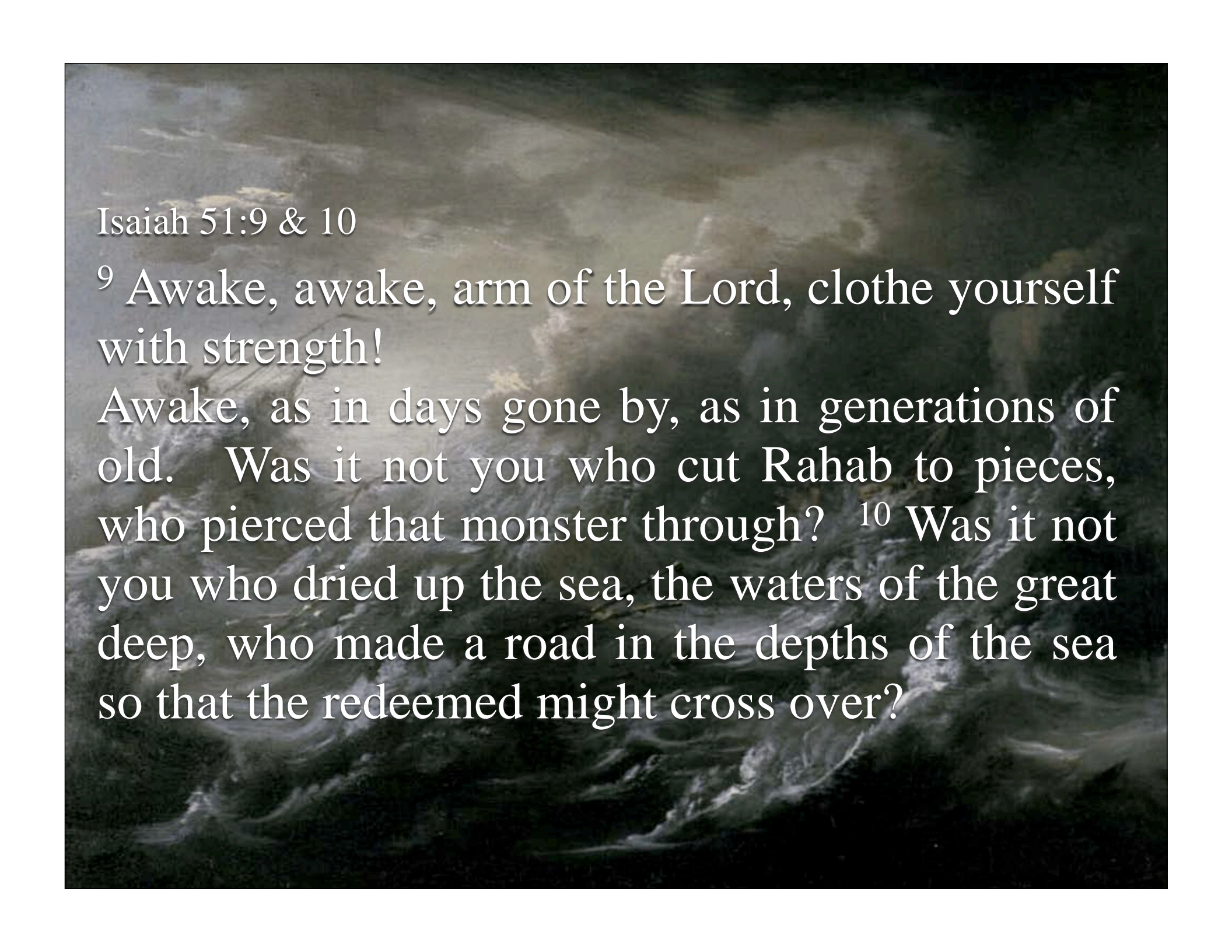
The disciples woke him and said to him,
“Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”





Mark 4:39

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.



Isaiah 51:9 & 10

⁹ Awake, awake, arm of the Lord, clothe yourself with strength!

Awake, as in days gone by, as in generations of old. Was it not you who cut Rahab to pieces, who pierced that monster through? ¹⁰ Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made a road in the depths of the sea so that the redeemed might cross over?

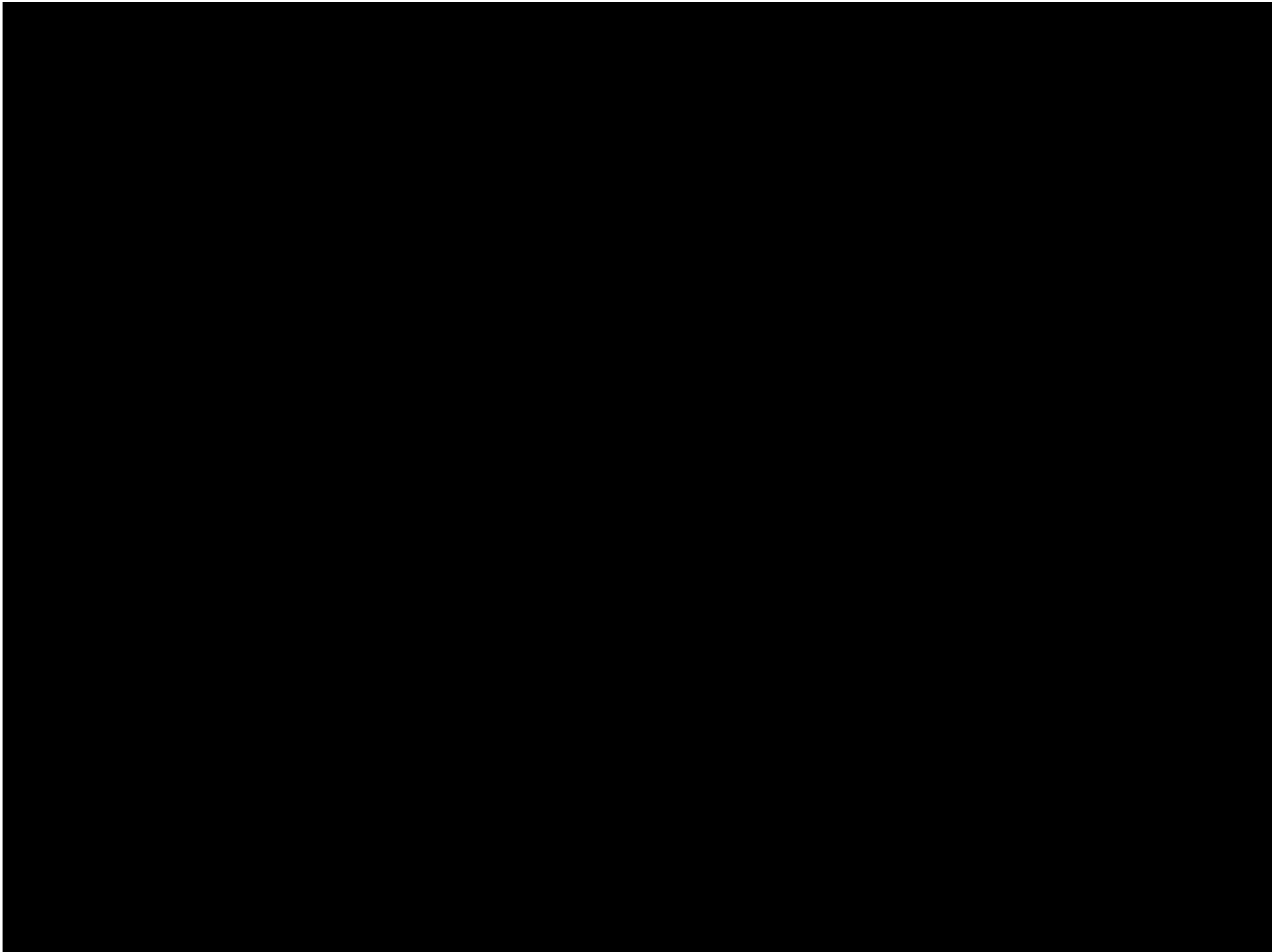


Mark 4:39

Then the wind died
down and it was
completely calm.

The rescue at sea displays who Jesus is and what he can do for those whose lives are threatened. Jesus has power over the forces of chaos and can rescue them from whatever storms may rampage through their lives, including the storms of persecution. This miracle is not against nature so much as it is against Satan, who would destroy Jesus' followers and their faith. Jesus' dominion over the wind and the sea points to what it will be like when "the rule of Satan is no more." In John's vision of the new heaven and earth (Revelation 21:1), the sea is no more.

The NIV Application Commentary, David E. Garland, p. 196

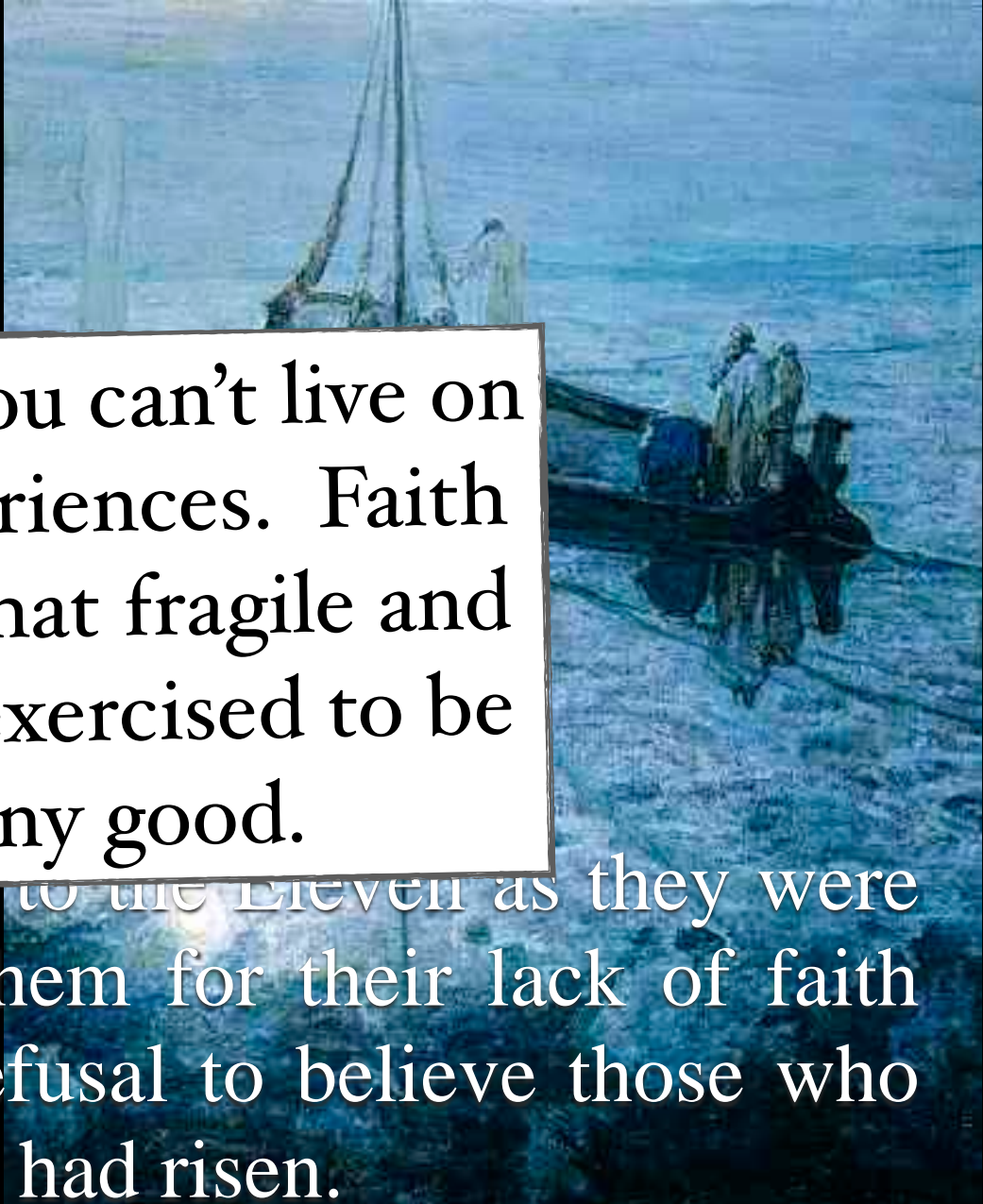


Mark 4:40

He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you have no faith?”

Mark 16:14

Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen.

A painting of a boat on a blue sea with a figure on the shore.

Lesson: You can't live on past experiences. Faith is somewhat fragile and must be exercised to be of any good.

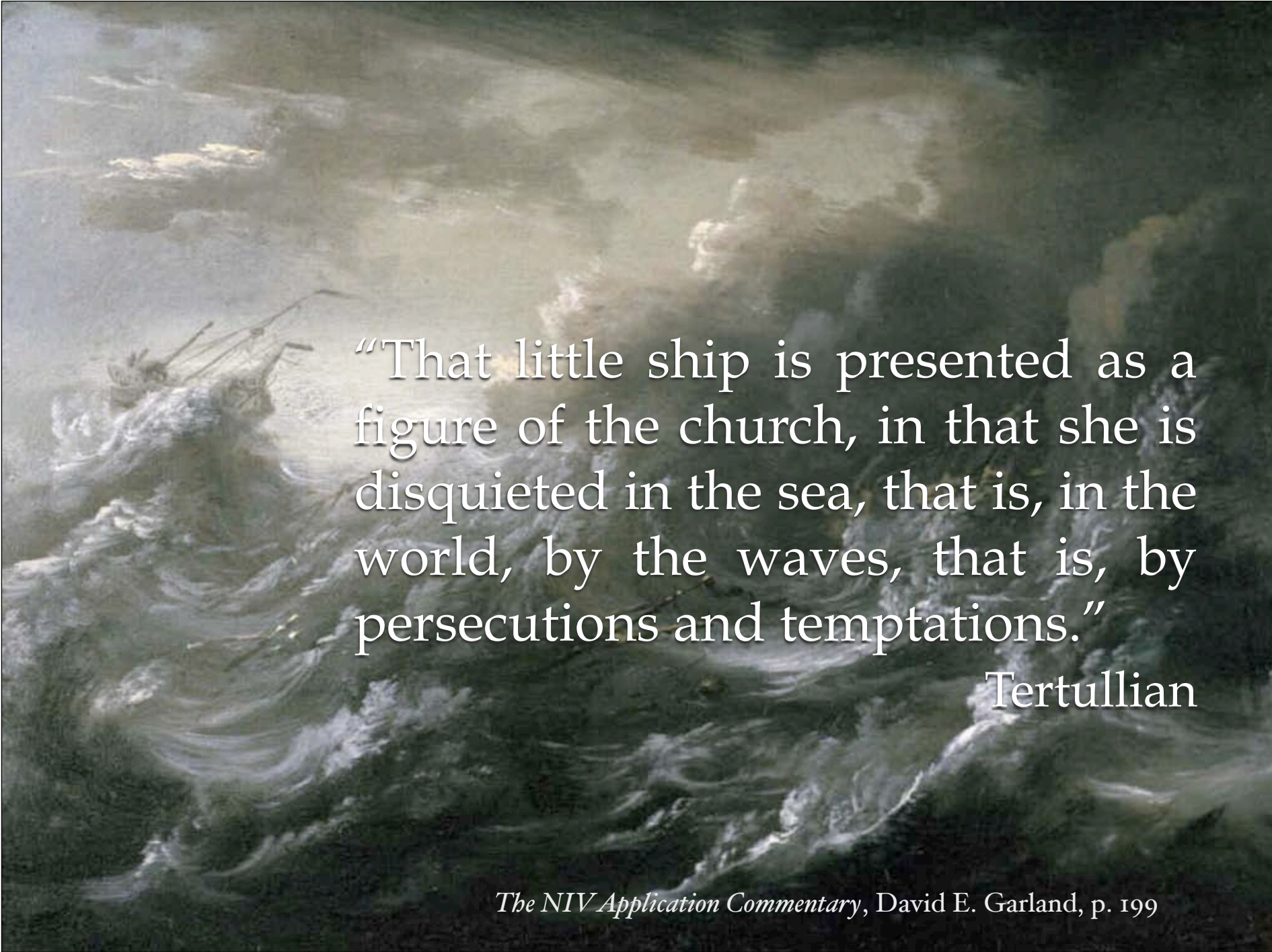
What is Mark teaching us about . . .

. . . who Jesus is? . . . the mess we're in? . . . the solution to that mess?

“The subduing of the sea and wind was not merely a demonstration of power; it was an epiphany, through which Jesus was unveiled to his disciples as the Savior in the midst of intense peril.” The answer to the first question is that Jesus is God and has the power to conquer the powers of darkness arrayed against him.”

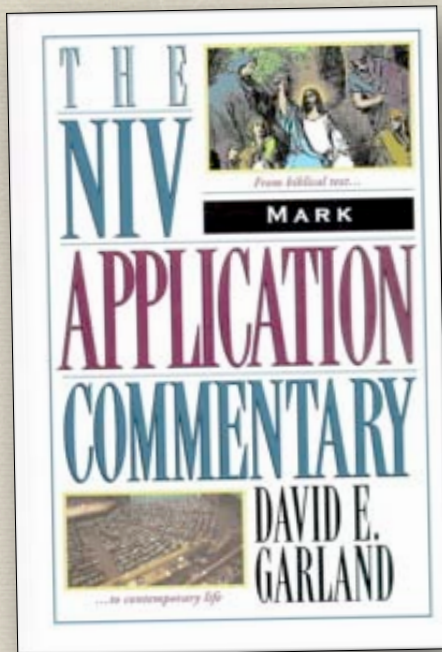
²³ Some traveled on the sea in ships, and carried cargo over the vast waters. ²⁴ They witnessed the acts of the Lord, his amazing feats on the deep water. ²⁵ He gave the order for a windstorm, and it stirred up the waves of the sea. ²⁶ They reached up to the sky, then dropped into the depths. The sailors' strength left them because the danger was so great. ²⁷ They swayed and staggered like a drunk, and all their skill proved ineffective. ²⁸ They cried out to the Lord in their distress; he delivered them from their troubles. ²⁹ He calmed the storm, and the waves grew silent. ³⁰ The sailors rejoiced because the waves grew quiet, and he led them to the harbor they desired.

Psalm 107:23 - 30

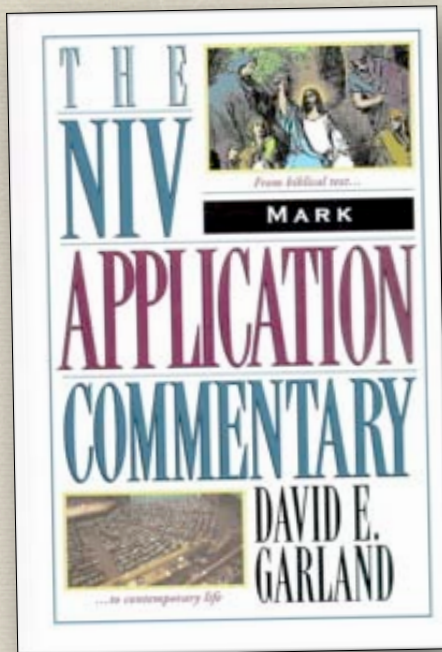


“That little ship is presented as a figure of the church, in that she is disquieted in the sea, that is, in the world, by the waves, that is, by persecutions and temptations.”

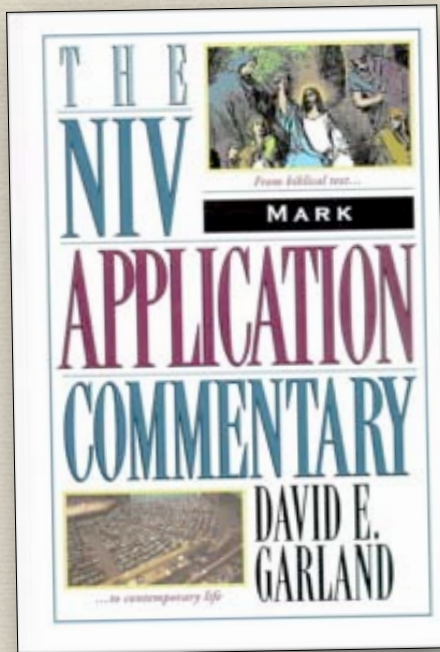
Tertullian



The calming of the storm has to do with Jesus' announcement that God reigns, "that the hostile forces of Satan, wherever they might be; inside man, outside man; are being overthrown by Jesus, the Holy One of God." He restores God's dominion over a chaotic world invaded by forces that wreak havoc.



Most people, however, are worried about their own little worlds and the storms that roar in to destroy them. In these personal situations many feel swamped by waves of a quite different sort. Like the disciples, they may feel that their cries for help meet with only a stony silence from heaven. Life is filled with hazards—and not just from the sea.



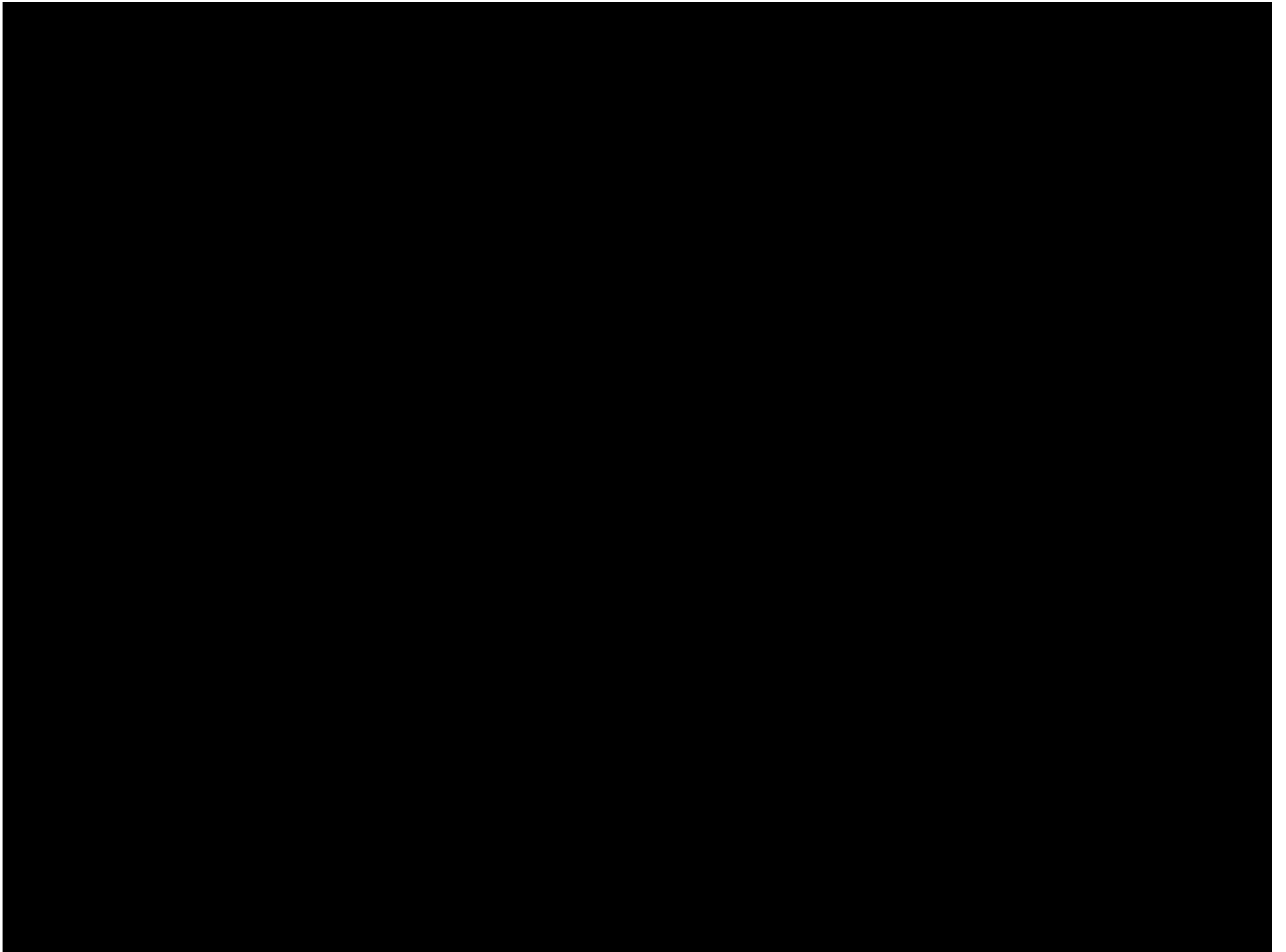
When the hurricanes sweep through our lives, Jesus may seem indifferent to our plight, asleep at the helm, or even absent. Many who lose their jobs, their health, and their friends may feel that Jesus deliberately ignores their fate and shows no concern for them. Fear leads to despair that God does not care.

“One moment all is well;
then, in a flash, all is hell.”

The NIV Application Commentary, David E. Garland, p. 200

Christianity is not a refuge from the uncertainties and insecurities of the world. Some may be too cowardly to get into the boat in the first place. Others may wish they never had embarked and want to retreat to the safety of the shore. But then they meet raging demons (5:2). *There are no safe places in life*, and one can only find security with Jesus and a serenity that this world does not know and cannot give.

Christians know that Jesus has done battle with the “strong man” and has won. He has beaten down the savage storms, and one has no reason to fear anything from nature or the supernatural, from life or death.





Both were in a boat

Both boats were
overtaken by a
violent storm

Both were asleep



In both stories terrified sailors woke up the sleeper and said, “We’re going to die!”

In both cases there was a miraculous, divine intervention and the storm and the sea were immediately calmed.

In both stories the seamen became more terrified by the instant calm than they had been by the storm.



¹¹ The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?” ¹² “Pick me up and throw me into the sea,” he replied, “and it will become calm.

Jonah 1:11 & 12



⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹ The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here.

Matthew 12: 40 & 41

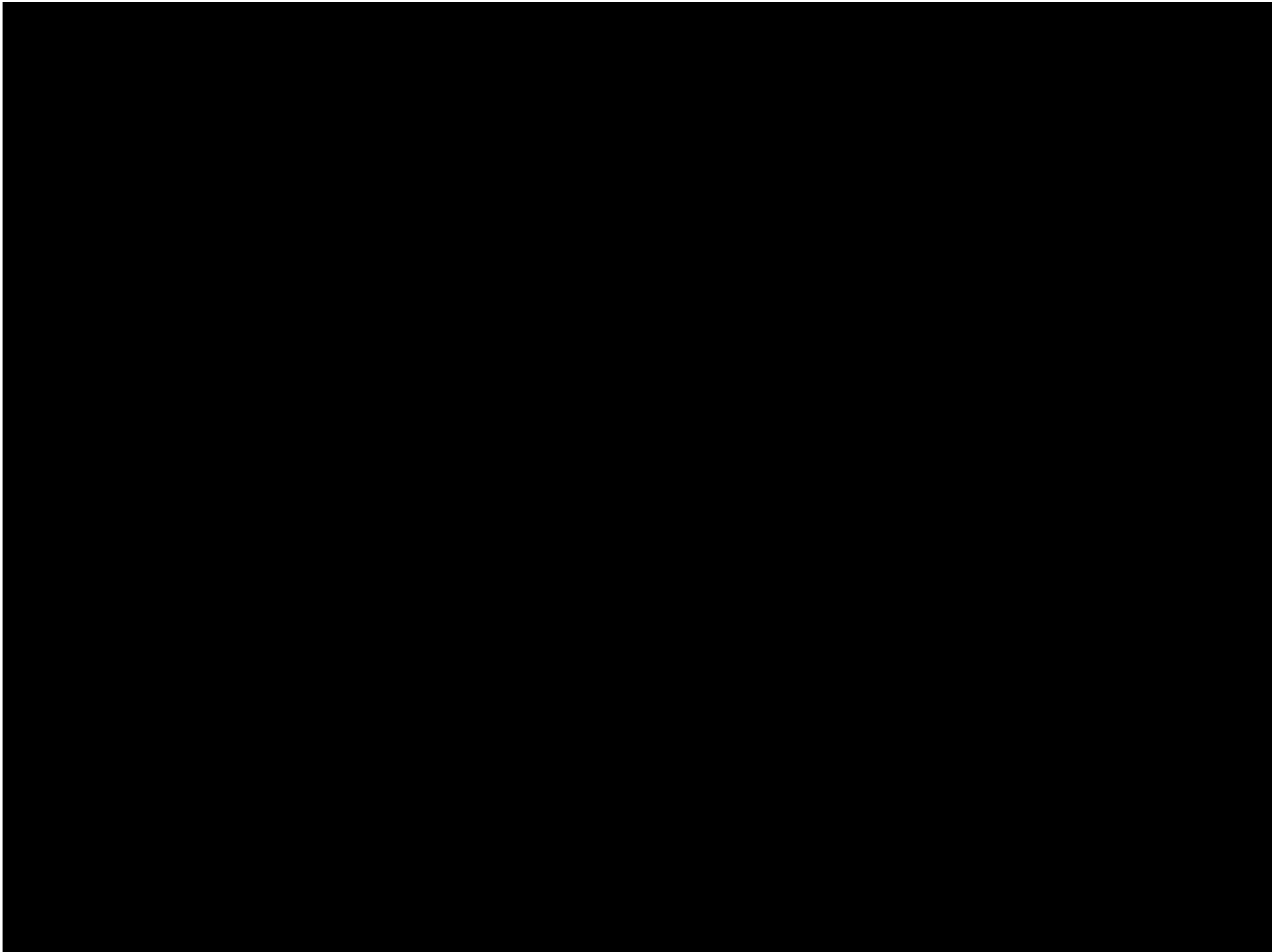


“... when he was on the cross he was thrown—willingly, like Jonah—into the ultimate storm, under the ultimate waves, the waves of sin and death. Jesus was thrown into the only storm that can actually sink us—the storm of eternal justice, of what we owe for our wrongdoing. That storm wasn’t calmed—not until it swept him away.



If the sight of Jesus bowing his head into that ultimate storm is burned into the core of your being, you will never say, “God, don’t you care?” And if you know that he did not abandon you in that ultimate storm, what makes you think he would abandon you in the much smaller storms you’re experiencing right now? And, someday, of course, he will return and still all storms for eternity.”

King’s Cross, Timothy Keller, p. 120 - 121



When through the deep waters I call you to go,
The rivers of woe shall not overflow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
And sanctify to you your deepest distress.
The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

How Firm a Foundation, John Keith, 1787

