

How Firm a Foundation

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.

PASSAGES TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH

Isaiah 51:6 – 8 (Read chapters 48 through 55)
2 Corinthians 1:8 – 11
2 Corinthians 4:7 – 9
2 Corinthians 5:1 – 10
Hebrews 13:5 – 6
Psalm 37:23 – 24
Romans 8:31 – 39



SCC Message by John Aldax, April 1, 2012

Part 13

Lord of the Storm

Mark 4:35 – 41

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

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.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

“WHO IS THIS?”

IRRELEVANT DETAIL

- the time of day (v.35)
- the reference to Jesus “just as he was” (v.36)
- the statement about the “other boats”
- the position of Jesus in the boat
- the mention of the cushion
- the whining of the disciples, and their fear and confusion (v.38).

All of these “irrelevant details” suggest that this is an eyewitness account not legend or fiction.

This is an eyewitness testimony about a _____ that happened in _____ and a _____.

Lesson: If we’re going to survive the storms that threaten to destroy us, our lives must be anchored on something that is **absolutely TRUE** not fiction.

THREE COMMON THEMES

_____ — Mark’s message: Jesus is equal to *any threat* that may shatter our lives.

_____ — Mark’s message: Those most open to receiving Jesus’ power in their lives are those who recognize *their own* desperate need of it. Those who are not open to his power are *no less desperate* but have *convinced themselves that they don’t need it*.

_____ — Mark’s message: Jesus is the uncontrollable, all-powerful God . . . our view of him is much too small.

The Sea of Galilee is **700 feet below sea level**, and between 30 & 40 miles to the south of Mount Hermon which is **9,200 feet** above sea level.

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?

SLEEP is _____ and it’s a _____

In ancient literature, the sea was *symbolic of the place of evil*, and *chaos*, and *unstoppable power to destroy*. The sea was the place where Jews believed that *evil and God collide*. The ocean . . . especially when stormy . . . was an *uncontrollable, unstoppable power*, and *only God could control it*.

*Revelation 21:1 — Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was **no longer any sea**.*

*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.*

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

THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- What does this passage reveal about Jesus?
- What does it reveal about the human predicament?
- What solution does it present for that predicament?

Psalm 107:23 – 30 —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.

*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*

“. . . the raging sea became calm.” Jonah 1:15

*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*

The question with which we must all wrestle . . . “**WHO IS THIS?** Even the wind and the waves obey him!”