



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus stills a storm (20 June)

This next section of Mark (4:35 - 5:43) contains four 'mighty deeds' that raise the question of Jesus' identity – a key aim of Mark's Gospel. Each action evokes amazement and fear in response to God's powerful presence in Jesus.

Here, Jesus, fully man, sleeps on this short journey – suggesting how tired his ministry makes him. Jesus, fully God, "rebukes" the wind and waves and tells them to be still – emphasising his personal authority as Master of all creation.

Jesus' question to his disciples – *Do you still have no faith?* – is a challenge to all disciples to be willing to trust God through life's difficulties and storms.

When the twelve ask *Who is this?* they are expressing not so much puzzlement as to who he is, but rather a dawning realisation of who he must be. They have seen him control the wind and sea; according to the scriptures, that is what God does.

1. What does this story say to you about the way we face the 'storms' of life?
2. Read v.38. Was Jesus indifferent to the storm and its effect on his disciples?
3. How do we see the authority of Jesus in these verses?
4. Read Isaiah 43:1-3. What do these verses say about the way we face life's great difficulties?
5. Jesus' disciples felt fear after he had calmed the storm (v.41). How would this differ from the fear they felt during the storm?
6. Fear can be a powerful emotion which can grip us. Do you sometimes have feelings of fear which prevent you from doing the things you think you should? In the light of these verses, what might you do when you feel such fear?
7. Perhaps the disciples' fear showed that they had not really begun to grasp the full implications of Jesus' previous words and deeds (eg 2:10,28), and perhaps that is why this demonstration of Jesus' authority left them terrified. Do you think the fears we sometimes feel might be caused by our not adequately understanding Jesus' lordship over everything?