



Jesus' Power Over Nature Mark 4:35-41

July 28, 2019
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This account demonstrates Jesus unlimited power over the natural world. Jesus and His disciples were on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee. To escape the crowds for a brief respite, Jesus wanted to go to the eastern shore, which had no large cities and therefore fewer people. Living A Peaceful Life

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶ And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. ³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰ He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Mark 4:35-41

What is The Purpose of God? We can study to see the Power of God and the Promise of God, but I want to discuss first, **the Purpose of God**. When we want to understand the purpose of God, we can ask the question, who is God? When asking this question of who God is, then **we can best define God by His CHARACTER**. What are some characteristics of God? We know that God is: Immutable, sovereign, good, savior, faithful, righteous, holiness, just, powerful, authoritative, wrathful, merciful, glorious, majestic, holy, loving, tender-kindness, personal, spiritual, eternal, all-knowing, all-powerful, all-there, fair, true, intelligent, teacher, giving, supernatural, unlimited, perfect, infinite, etc. This is who our God is!

"This is what the LORD says:

"Don't let the wise boast in their wisdom, or the powerful boast in their power, or the rich boast in their riches. ²⁴ But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the LORD who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and

righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the LORD, have spoken!" **Jeremiah 9:23-24**

Boasting of the Lord is a delight to the Lord. He loves for us to truly know Him and understand Him!!! David Platt, once a Senior Pastor of Brookhill Church in Birmingham, AL once said "It is not a cheerful thought that millions of us who live in a land of Bibles, who belong to churches and labor to promote the Christian religion, may yet pass our whole life on this earth without once having thought or tried to think seriously about the being of God. Few of us have let our hearts gaze in wonder at the I AM, the self-existent being of which no creature can think." **The SOVEREIGNTY of God remains the same.** "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." **Hebrews 13:8** When we start asking God questions like: "Did God really say that?", "Did God really do that?", "Does God really mean that when He said in that way?", "Why would God allow these things to happen?", "Does God really care?" Questions like these are questions that ushered sin into the world. "The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!" **Genesis 3:4**

Secondly, in this passage we can see **the Power of God**. In verses 37-39, we read "And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." Wind is a common occurrence on that lake, about 690 ft. below sea level and surrounded by hills. The Greek work can also mean "whirlwind". In this case, it was a storm so severe that it took on the properties of a hurricane. The disciples, used to being on the lake in the wind, thought this storm would drown them. Jesus was so exhausted from a full day of healing and preaching, even the storm could not wake Him up. Peace be still – Literally means "to be silent, be muzzled." Storms normally subside gradually, but when the Creator gave the order, the natural elements of this storm ceased immediately.

We can ask the question; What is the purpose for His power? So, is it always for man's will and good or is it always for God's own will and good pleasure? **Christ's power EXPRESSES His Character. Christ's power EXPOSES His Promise.** Hear the scriptures declaring that when the storms of life come, it isn't always the case that that storm will be calmed. Here is where we see the Promise of God!

Thirdly, we see the Promise of God. The promise is NOT that the storm may cease, but the promise is that God will be with us through the storm. It says in verses 40-41, "He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" And if we study the entire setting of passages that surround Chapter 4, we notice the scripture teaches **Christ has power over DISEASE, DISASTER, DEMONIC spirits, and even DEATH!** There is a promised rest. **Exercising FAITH allows the believer to enter their spiritual REST.** The writer quoted **Psalms 95:11** which states the opposite side: "the unbeliever will not enter onto the rest which God provides." **Spiritual rest GIVEN by God is not something incomplete or unfinished.**

It is a rest which is based upon a finished work which God purposed in eternity past, just like the rest which God took after He finished creation. The disciples feared exceedingly – This was not fear of being harmed by the storm, but a reverence for the supernatural power Jesus had just displayed. The only thing more terrifying than having a storm outside the boat was having God inside the boat! Their statement “Who can this be?” betrayed the disciples’ wonder at the true identity of Jesus. We need this promise from God so that we can recognize the identity of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Entering His rest results in peace, confidence of salvation, reliance on His strength, and assurance of a future heavenly home. May you and I live a life of peace in our Lord today.