

# Marks of Discipleship

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading  
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual  
Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

September 10, 2023

## Day 1: Mark 4:35

***On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.'***

Jesus has finished a series of parables that pointed to a bountiful harvest that stemmed from a next-to-invisible beginning. Jesus has been inviting the crowd not only to hear, but to follow and bear fruit, because to be a disciple is to bear fruit. Jesus has decided to take His mission to the other side of Lake Galilee, which is primarily non-Jewish.

**Question:** What do you think the boat looked like and do you think that all twelve were with Him?

**Challenge:** See if you can figure out the distance from Capernaum to the other side of the Lake.

**Scripture:** Mark 4:1-34

## Day 2: Mark 4:36

***And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.***

This event in Mark 4:35-41 takes place just after Jesus has been sharing some parables about the Kingdom of God and how in the Kingdom of God the values are different. Values of the Kingdom (mercy, justice, forgiveness, love) outweigh the society's values of payback, power, pride and greed. There will be many who believe but fewer who believe and follow. Jesus took the disciples out on the lake as a test to help them see that they needed some work in the faith area.

**Question:** What is the hardest test you ever had to take? How did you do?

**Challenge:** If Jesus was going to test your faith, what would be a good test?

**Scripture:** Psalm 88

## Day 3: Mark 4:37-38

***A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?'***

The storms on the lake can be very dangerous but at least four of the disciples were professional fishermen so they must have had extensive experience with the lake and its storms. In fact, they would have had experience with the storms at night as they fished mostly at night. The last phrase in the verse is ironic, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing"? Jesus came into the world to rescue the perishing from sin and death, and they wonder if He does not care about their lives.

**Question:** What would be your question to Jesus in this situation?

**Challenge:** Can you think of a time when "a great gale" arose in your life? Looking back, how did your faith help you weather the storm?

**Scripture:** Joshua 3

## Day 4: Mark 4:39

***He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind 'ceased, and there was a dead calm.***

Later in the gospel Jesus asks the three disciples (Peter, James and John) to stay awake with him while He prayed in the Garden. In the Garden He could have thrown their words back at them by saying, "don't you care that I am perishing?" but He does not. He calmly gets up and calms the sea, not for dramatic effect but because He wanted to teach them something and the storm kept them from hearing. Jesus wants us to hear and believe the Good News that God loves us and has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him. But there are storms that get in the way of our hearing. When we share with someone why we believe and why we have hope many times that person cannot hear because the storms of their life are too loud and scary. We may have to help calm the storms before we can tell of God's love.

**Question:** Why do you think Jesus does not tell them to calm down before He calmed the storm?

**Challenge:** Think of a time you made a decision or move out of panic - how did it work out?

**Scripture:** Exodus 14:10-31

## Day 5: Mark 4:40

***He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'***

In Romans 8:37-39 (*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*), Paul states we will never be separated from the

love of God. Both in life and in death we are one in Christ. In fact, when the storms of life are raging Jesus stands by us even more closely than in the safe harbor.

**Question:** What do you think - if we have faith can we be afraid? If so, then what does Jesus mean when He calls them afraid?

**Challenge:** When have you felt separated from God?

**Scripture:** Hebrews 11

## Day 6: Mark 4:41

***And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'***

Jesus has been showing (in the first 7 chapters) that He has power over illness, demons and now over nature itself. The one who was at creation is the one who can command creation. Note that Jesus does not do any of these amazing things to be noticed or to gain fame. He needs the followers to know that He is the Son of God and He is the correct one to follow to find life more abundant and eternal.

**Question:** What do you think - is this the first time they wondered who Jesus was?

**Challenge:** What was it that proved to you that Jesus is the one to follow?

**Scripture:** Matthew 14:19-23