

He's In the Boat

March 22nd, 2026

Focus Scripture: Mark 4:35-41 NKJV

On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Introduction: Sailing on the Sea of Galilee

- Also called the Sea (or Lake) of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1); the Sea of Chinnereth in the OT (Deuteronomy 3:17)
- Located 60 miles N of Jerusalem in the Jordan Rift Valley
- It is the largest fresh water lake in Israel with a surface area of 64 square miles
- At 686 feet below sea level it is the lowest fresh water lake in the world
- It is fed by the Jordan River from the N
- It is an area of mild winters and hot summers, with tropical vegetation and crops of bananas, dates, citrus fruit, and vegetables and abundant fish (the first disciples were fishermen called from here)
- It currently supports agricultural and fishing industries, and its thermal springs have been used for health benefits throughout the centuries
- The views are described as scenic and beautiful, a place of rest and tranquility
- It was the scene of much of Jesus' Galilean ministry

Point No. 1: Storms can come on quickly

- The Sea of Galilee is noted for sudden and violent storms, being surrounded by hills and mountains
- Cold air comes down from the Hauran mountain range and Mt. Hermon and the Golan region, converging at the head of the lake where it meets warm air
- Matthew ("great tempest"), Mark, and Luke ("windstorm" or "storm of wind") all record this event
- Tempest (G4978 – schisma) = division, rent, schism (think "to be torn in two")
- Storms of life come on quickly and can make you feel as you've been torn in two
- Storms look threatening and they can come as result of circumstances beyond our control (disasters, disease, crime) or our own selfish or sinful choices. Regardless, they still shake us.
- The Israelites faced Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea (Exodus 14), but Jonah ran from God and faced his own storm. David was running from King Saul when he wrote these words:

- *Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. I sink in deep mire, Where there is no standing; I have come into deep waters, Where the floods overflow me. I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God. (Psalms 69:1-3 NKJV)*
- Does this describe you? What storms are you facing?

Point No. 2: Jesus was in the boat with the disciples

- The disciples were still afraid in the storm, afraid in their circumstances, even though Jesus was right there with them.
- They had heard his teaching and witnessed Him perform other miracles, seeing him heal the sick and cast out demons (Mark 1 & 2), and even raise a widow's son (Luke 7).
- They weren't questioning His power, they were questioning His character.
- They equated His sleeping with a lack of concern.
- Do you ever feel that way? Do you feel as if God is sleeping and just doesn't care?
- Psalms 121:1-4 NKJV - *I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord , Who made heaven and earth. He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.*
- Isaiah 49:15-16 NKJV - *“Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.*
- Hebrews 13:5-6 NKJV - *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”*
- Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 NKJV - *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Maybe we should take a cue from Jesus learn to rest in the storm.

Point No. 3: Jesus commands “Peace, be still!”

- Jesus calmed this storm, but He turned to His disciples with the question, *“Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?”*
- He was challenging them to be calm in the face of the storm. He is challenging us as well.
- Psalms 46:10 NKJV - *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!* The idea here is that there should be no anxiety in the situation, but a calm or trustful state of mind in view of the display of God's divine presence and power (from the Bible Portal)

- Exodus 14:13-14 NKJV - *And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."*
- Psalm 37:7-8 NKJV - *Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret— it only causes harm.*
- John 14:27 NKJV - *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*
- John 16:33 NKJV - *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*
- Psalms 4:8 NKJV - *I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.*

Point No. 4: Who can this be?

- John 1:1-4 NKJV - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*
- John 1:14 NKJV - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- Colossians 1:15-16 NKJV - *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*
- He is the Creator of the universe and He's in the boat!
- Revelation 1:17-18 NKJV - *I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*
- Revelation 21:4-6 NKJV - *And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*
- He is the Redeemer of mankind and creation, and He is in the boat!
- Isaiah 53:5-6 NKJV - *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*
- John 3:16-17 NKJV - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.*

- John 1:29 NKJV - *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 NKJV - *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
- He is the Savior of the world and He's in the boat!

Conclusion: Is He in your boat?

- You are either in a storm now or about to enter one. Will Jesus be in the boat with you?
- John 11:25-26 NKJV - *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"*
- Jesus asked His disciples in Luke 9:20, *"Who do you say that I am?"* Who do you say He is?
- Jesus prayed, *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."* (John 17:3 NKJV)
- Does you want the assurance of eternal life? Do you want the assurance that Jesus will be in you boat? Follow the Roman Road.
- Romans 3:23 NKJV - *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
- Romans 6:23 NKJV - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Romans 5:8 NKJV8 - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- Romans 10:9 NKJV - *If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- Romans 8:1 NKJV - *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*
- Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and you won't face the storms of life alone!