

He calms the wind and the sea, 'who is this?'

V. 35-38. The trip across the Lake is at the request of Jesus. This would have made the coming of the storm harder for the disciples to understand. This is further heightened by Jesus' relaxed response to the storm. The rebuke of the disciples shows their confusion and fear (they are fishermen!).

Reflection/Response. The text does not say whether Jesus knew or did not know what would happen. Being with Jesus led to his disciples being caught in a dangerous storm. Why does God allow, even call us to experience difficult and dangerous situations?

V. 39. Jesus' response is in sharp contrast to that of his disciples. He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still! Mark describes what happened with dramatic brevity, 'then the wind died down and it was completely calm'. Jesus calmly exercised his authority without any showmanship. Jesus acts in spite of the disciples' lack of faith.

Reflection/Response. God's gracious care is not limited by our lack of faith. How have we experienced God's care for us when we doubted Him or ignored Him?

V. 40. Jesus rebuking his disciples seems at first unfair. They were fishermen who knew the real dangers of a storm and the limits of their boats. Jesus' disappointment at their lack of faith is shared by Mark so all will know!

Reflection/Response. To trust Jesus is to honour him as our Lord.

V. 41. The disciples ask the question, 'who is this?' and they answer their own question. He is the one who is obeyed by the wind and the sea.

Reflection/ Response. The man Jesus is also the divine creator (Col. 1:15-20) and the One we are called to have faith in, to trust. How do we experience the risen Lord Jesus, who has authority to calm the wind and the sea, caring for us?

Summary. In the Law and the Prophets, God is shown as controller of the natural world and natural phenomena. In the OT God blew the east wind and dried up the Red Sea for Israel His people (Ex. 14:21). Now the divine person Jesus Christ calms the waters of the Lake of Galilee for his disciples, the nucleus of the new 'people of God' (Jew and Gentile). Already Mark has shown Jesus as the one who sees heaven opened, one upon whom the Spirit rests, who is responsive to the Spirit's guidance, who enjoys angelic ministry. In Mark Jesus is one who teachers with authority. He heals the sick, expels demons and forgives sins. Who dares rebuke the wind and the sea, and when does the wind and the sea respond to the wishes of human beings? The answer to the disciples' question, 'who is this?', and to ours is found in Genesis 1. The One who creates the world is the only One who is its master (Col. 1:15-20). This is the amazing conclusion that Mark wants his readers to come to: This Jesus is truly God incarnate (God in human form), and in him we should all put our trust.