

Peace! Be Still!

The gospel for this coming Sunday (Fourth Sunday after Pentecost) is Mark 4:35-41. The first 34 verses of this chapter are all about the use of parables on the part of Jesus and three kingdom of God parables. It was the end of day filled with teaching.

At the end of the day Jesus tells his disciples that he wants to go to other side of the Sea of Galilee. He was leaving the predominantly Jewish region of Galilee for the more Gentile region. This was in keeping with the principle expressed in chapter 1:38, (that His mission must be extended elsewhere).

From a small boat Jesus had been teaching the multitude lined up on the shore (4:2). Now that evening had come He determined to cross over to the eastern shore of the lake (probably the Sea of Galilee).

The Sea of Galilee is 13 miles long, 7 miles wide, and 160 feet deep at its deepest point. Situated in a basin surrounded by mountains, the Sea of Galilee is particularly susceptible to sudden, violent storms.

"Great windstorm" is something like a hurricane squall. No wonder the waves were beating against the boat and that it was nearly swamped.

Amazingly, Jesus slept through the noise and commotion, resting his head on one of the rower's cushions inside the stern. Certainly this illustrates Jesus' real humanity. He was dead tired and needed to be physically roused from sleep.

By crying out "*Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?*" showed that they feared. This is not commendable. But they sought help from the right person. That is commendable. It was unconceivable that he would not care for them or us when we are in trouble.

Jesus addresses the creation by speaking to the storm as if it were a person. The great storm must have been awesome. Equally awesome must have been the sudden calm.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for calming the many storms in my life. When trouble comes, help to run to you for help. Thank you for your forgiveness when I forget to trust solely on you. Amen