

THE STORMS OF LIFE
Stilling of the Sea

Introduction. Miracle which shows that even true disciples of X may be beset by fears and anxieties. God hasn't promised material blessing or physical comfort. Else P was backsliden. Phil 4:12; Rom 8:36. 1 Pet 1:6f. Suffering is part of a normal Xn experience. Get certain principles out of the miracle for such times.

I. We have an EXAMPLE. It centers in the PERSON of X. Mk 4:35-38.

- A. In fatigue. *Being tired* Cf vs 1. evidently teaching all day. Now weary. So went to stern and to sleep on a pillow. Heb 4:15--touched with feeling of our infirmities. See babe in stable; man baptized, boy in temple, crying at Lazarus' tomb. Bleeding from crown of thorns. Thirsty, tired. Only time we read of X's sleeping except 1:35 "To be wearied and worn in doing God's work is no sin at all."
- B. In faith. *Being trusting* A storm arose from natural causes (not Satanic). Hills around are funnelled with ravines which act as funnels for wind to come down. Esp after a warm day. Severe bec Mt says an earthquake in the sea. Just graphic description. Also from description of waves coming into the boat. Disciples were in mortal danger. Cf Jesus asleep. Boat filled--only here, Lk 9:51; Acts 2:1. *Lk 9:23*

II. We have an ENCOURAGEMENT. It centers in the POWER of X. 4:38-39.

- A. Power that cares. Some disciples cried Teacher, some Master, some Lord (all accounts). Their position was desperate, and these expert seamen were at the end of their ropes and knowledge. Sometimes it is necessary to come to end of resources to discover that X cares. Don't have to go that far. Carest not? Melei. Same 1 Pet 5:7. They abandon all human skill and help and cast selves on X and discover He cares. Don't forget it is intelligent love. He cares and He knows us.
- B. Power that calms. Instantly and completely. Usually when wind ceases water doesn't cease to be agitated. Here it did. Phil 4:7. Literally wind "sank to rest." Psalm 107:29 in Scottish meter--"The storm is changed into a calm At his command and will; So that the waves which raged before, now quiet are and still."

III. We have an EXHORTATION. It centers in the PRESENCE of X (or PRAYER to X). 4:40-41.

- A. An exhortation concerning fear. It must not be cowardice, 40. Delia in vs 40. Belongs to old nature, Rev. 21:8. 2 Tim 1:7. Lack of physical or moral courage and failure to do duty. *Disciples had no major to this fear even if they panicked* Have none of that kind of fear. X severely rebukes that. But have fear phobos of 41 which is awe in the presence of X. Fear which keeps you from being too familiar with Him, but which never drives you from Him. It stems from recognition of the presence of the One whom you serve. Makes you attentive, alert, active. Illus with Nice. Resultant state of having been struck with God.
- B. An exhortation concerning faith. Fault only found with their unbelief, never with trusting Him. It is not the cry for help that is blamed, but the lack of faith that the cry wouldn't be heard and answered. Faith must be large (*Mt*), contemporaneous (*Lk--where*), related to factual knowledge of who Jesus is (*Mk--what manner of man*). Fear plus facts equal increasing faith.