

FEAR TO FAITH

Imperfect
to Impactful

PRECEPT

MARK 4:35-41

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" ⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

PROMISE

Jesus is our refuge in times of help and need. In times of troubles, He is always there to care for us and comfort us. Sadly, there are still times that when hardships come our way, we have moments of fear and distress. There are instances that we are afraid to move forward because we can't let go of the past, or we question God's love because of our struggles in the present, or we get paralyzed with fear because of uncertainties in the future. There are also times that we are fearful because we lack trust in the One who can truly help us. There are various types of fear that many are struggling with when storms of life come. There is the fear of condemnation or rejection because of their past; fear of being judged or not being good enough; fear of inadequacy or failure; and fear of uncertainty, being insecure about the future. In Mark 4:35-41, Jesus and His disciples were just beginning Christ's ministry, so the disciples had not been with Him for long and their faith and knowledge of Him was still untested. He was still just a rabbi and friend, and they didn't realize yet how powerful Jesus really is and that He and the Father are one. When the storm arose in the boat as they journey across the Sea of Galilee, they were afraid and they knew they were in danger. As Jesus came from a full day of ministering and sharing parables to people, He got physically tired and rested in the boat. When the violent windstorm came, the disciples woke up Jesus in panic and desperation. Surely, we would react in the same way if we were in the same situation. It can get scary and alarming when things get out of our control, but this we must know, that the God of heavens and earth is always in control of everything. He is with us and will never forsake us in the face of the storms in our life. Verse 39 says, *"He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down, and it was completely calm."* Unintentionally, we can be fearful when caught in life's storms. There are times that like the disciples, we may not yet have personal experiences to look back on to remind us of the full power of God at work in our lives. For some of us who are new to following Christ, we can view the storms of life as a threat against us, and we may want God to immediately step into our problems and make them go away. However, God often allows us to weather these storms in order to demonstrate His power and His care, and to mature our faith so that we learn to trust Him when we face similar experiences later on. He continued in verse 40, *"He said to His disciples, 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?'"* He is reminding us today, stop being afraid and have faith in Him, no matter what troubles you are experiencing today. Let us reflect and think where we worry the most, for that is where we may trust God the least. Ask for His help for He is always listening to our plead. Jesus, the Son of God, can help you and calm the storm around you. Praises and glory to Him!

PRACTICE

1. Storms in Life. What area/s in your life are you experiencing storms today? Do you think your struggles strengthen your faith? Why or why not?

2. Jesus Is. Who is Jesus in your life today? In times of hardships, how do you experience His presence in your life?

PRAYER

I. Grace

- Praise God for His saving grace that is available for all. Thank Him for His daily sufficient grace.

II. Guidance

- May our every path be in accordance with God's will. May He guide us in every aspect of our lives.

III. Love

- May all our actions be done in love & may our every act be defined by a desire to obey God's commands.

IV. Provision

- May we all entrust ourselves and our financial situations to God and His bountiful grace.

V. Strength

- When waves come crashing down upon us, may we trust in God's beautiful mercy and grace.

VI. Community

- Pray that the Lord will work in the hearts and minds of our friends and workmates to bring them to Christ.

VII. Evangelism

- Pray that we will all have the desire and intentionality in spreading the Gospel of Christ.