

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Job 38:1-11

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

You stilled the storm & silenced the waves
of the sea. (v29)

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land & sea, sunshine & storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, & by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Mark 4:35-41

³⁵When evening had come, [Jesus said to the disciples,] “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, & the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; & they woke him up & said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹He woke up & rebuked the wind, & said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, & there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe & said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind & the sea obey him?”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. The second lesson carries on our semi-continuous read through *2nd Corinthians*; how does this reading fit with the Gospel anyway? (Remember the first lesson is always a model or prototype of the Gospel). How does the 2nd lesson apply the Gospel's theme?
2. What would changing the first reading to *Jonah 1:1--2:1* add to (or subtract from) your insights about the Gospel reading? What happens if you compare throwing Jonah overboard to Jesus' death (*cf. Matthew 12:38-41*)? What about using *Proverbs 30:1-5? See also Psalms 104:3, 135:7*

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Later Jesus will find his disciples sleeping when his own death is impending (*cf. v38; Mark 14:32-42*). When have you been sleeping through your loved ones perishing? What made you clueless, hesitant, or even afraid to come to their help? Think of at least 5 examples. What was the outcome of each situation & relationship?
4. The world & society *right now* are the sum of all causes & effects, all choices made in the past. (This is similar to the “butterfly effect;” en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Butterfly_effect) How does God’s response to Job show that he does indeed care & that he alone is able to account for every single one of these variables? *See Genesis 50:19-21; Romans 8:28-30; 1 Corinthians 2:9; James 1:22; 1 Peter 5:10*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Building on #3 & #4, review the Formula of Concord: chapter XI’s discussion of election/predestination/foreknowledge. How does this more technical explanation of God’s control over the events of history (& their seeming arbitrariness or randomness) help you speak more clearly to a neighbor wondering, “Why did such-and-such have to happen? Doesn’t God care about me?” *Review both the Epitome XI:1-23 & the Solid Declaration XI:1-8 FC available <bookofconcord.org>*
6. They say that God doesn’t promise a smooth ride, but a safe landing. Ultimately our material success, our achievements, & our social acceptance & approval etc. aren’t measures of God’s care for us. Review the “I am” statements from John’s gospel (& their surrounding verses), *John 3:16*, St. Paul’s reasoning in Romans, & the Small Catechism’s explanation of the Creed & Lord’s Prayer. How does this equip you to show & tell others about God’s love for them in their everyday lives? *See John 3:16, 6:35, 8:12, 10:9, 10:11, 14, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1, 5; Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 10:9, 13, 5:1, 8:1, 38-39 SC available <bookofconcord.org>*

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Storm vs. Calm

Perhaps we speak too soon when asking, “Hey God! Don’t you care?”

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion;
& they woke him up & said to him, “Teacher, do you not care
that we are perishing?” (v38)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.
(*2 Corinthians 6:2*)

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