

# The Help we Need

*Mark 4:35-41*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim Conners passed away
- 40th Anniversary
- 2nd Sunday at North Campus
- Election on Tuesday
- Renewal love packages leaves today
- Far Reaching Ministries - Wes Bently
  - It sends Chaplains and Bibles into some of the world's most war-torn, spiritually dark places. Prayer cards are available at the info desk.

## MEDIA

John was shot and killed. He never knew his mother as she died in childbirth. His father was not in the picture, and John was put in an orphanage. It was at the orphanage that he became a believer. John graduated from Class Two in 2000. He said that he had a dream one night, and the Lord told him he would go to a great college. He pondered what this meant because South Sudan had no great college. He later said that he realized it was the FRM chaplaincy training program the Lord was showing him. He served faithfully for over 20 years and was taken from us by a bullet, which is considered a merciful way to die in South Sudan. In a moment, he stepped on the other side to be greeted by more than 70 of his fellow chaplains who had gone before him. Both John and Jacob are now considered to have been dispatched to Unit Seven of the Chaplain Corp—the unit that has journeyed to our Lord's Kingdom.

*Far Reaching ministries*

#### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

### **Mark 4:35-41 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

<sup>35</sup> On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.”

<sup>36</sup> Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

<sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

<sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

<sup>39</sup> Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

<sup>40</sup> But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

<sup>41</sup> And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

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## INTRO

How many of you here today have ever asked for or sought help? *I'm sure all the guys aren't raising their hands!*

I grew up listening to the Beatles, for better or worse, and I remember always thinking that it was pretty honest to sing a song about needing "Help!"

Of course, we all need help. Humanity could not progress if we were all left to our own devices without mutual help from others.

- Isn't it true that the more we accomplish and learn, the less we see ourselves as people in need of help? Perhaps we see ourselves as those who can now help others, which is great. But frequently, as we grow, we become more and more self-dependent.
  - That's not always bad! It's nice when your son hits 24 that he knows how to work and has independent skills that don't require him to live in your basement while playing video games.
  - Self-dependence can be dangerous when we refuse to see or seek the help we still need.
  - It's a natural human proclivity to sometimes run from the very things they need for help, and run to the very things that hurt them.
  - **EXAMPLE:** Ashley ran through a memory exercise with me because I couldn't immediately recall everything that we did in June. She was forcing me to remember every detail so that I could stay mentally sharp the older I got. My reaction? ***"I feel too vulnerable; I'm frustrated with my struggle to recall. This is embarrassing. Let's talk about something else. You can save your neuroplasticity exercises for the children!"***

We can be prideful people, and this can really hurt us when it comes to receiving the most important and essential help we need. Human help can only go so far in the journey of life,

and eternally speaking, human help is only good for pointing you in the right direction and introducing you to the only One who is able to help.

### MINISTRY:

- I honestly cannot think of many days in the ministry when I've encountered people who don't need more help than what other humans can give them. In fact, most of the time, I find myself in situations where people have exhausted every earthly avenue only to still be broken, empty, depressed, angry, or addicted.
- And many times, what I stated earlier about our proclivities holds true. Instead of coming face to face with God in our greatest moment of need, we often run further into the things that are hurting us, believing the deception that we will find hope, comfort, stability, or escape in those things.
- when life pushes against us, we often respond by pushing back at life instead of pressing into Christ, the only true source of help.

### APPLICATION

I've lost track of the times I've heard, "Well, I tried God, and He didn't work. I gave God a shot, and things didn't change."

- I do not doubt that those people are expressing what they perceive as being their true experience, but I've found that 100% of the time, people with that attitude are interacting with Gd as though His purpose is to be "an out" of their problems. And they do this frequently by approaching God on their own terms.
- At the core level, God truly is the one every human needs to get through this life and into the next. But God is not like a pair of jeans that you try on and return if you decide they don't fit right. He's not an option out of many that you get a 30-day free trial with to decide if he works.
  - **EXAMPLE:** Who in their right mind, when taking a medication for a deadly disease, decides it doesn't work and throws it out without ever consuming the medication or taking it according to their own understanding and desires? And yet, people who "Try God" often try him by demanding that He bend to their will rather than entering a place of absolute surrender.
- ***God is the creator of ALL things, including your life and every breath you take. His word and power sustain the placement of every molecule in the physical universe***

***and every reality of the unseen spiritual world. He is Love, He defines truth, He is outside the physical restrictive boundaries of space and time, and He is close; He chose to walk with us, coming in the form of a man; He chose to die for us to make a way for humanity to be connected to their creator, having become a sacrifice for their sin and rebellion. He is the only one who has, or ever will, conquer death to live forever. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. At His name, the most powerful spiritual beings tremble in fear, and at His command, kingdoms rise and fall outside of any human ability to manipulate or control.***

## QUOTE

**“ Jesus is not one option on a table of multiple solutions for your pain. He's the only cure.**

## APPLICATION

Today's passage is a story of a great Savior who sleeps in storms... but before you think that's a bad thing, give the Spirit a chance to help you understand why.

**CONTEXT:** Jesus had just finished another long and grueling day of ministry, and evening had come.

- He'd already experienced what we might consider storms on dry land. He was accused of being possessed by Beelzebub, rejected and slandered by the religious and political leaders, mobbed by self-seeking crowds, and spending hours teaching people who rarely understood what He was saying.
- And now he decides to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee where more difficult ministry will find him: A dangerous and psychotic demoniac, a city of people who feel threatened by Jesus... you would think that between one side of the lake and the other side of the lake, maybe there would be time for a nice, refreshing, restful break for Jesus.
- WELL, actually, for Jesus, there was a nice restful break even in the middle of an unexpected and turbulent storm. In the middle of the Sea of Galilee, while the disciples were frantically trying to preserve their lives, Jesus was catching an

afternoon nap. One might perceive that as uncaring. The disciples certainly did. But that wasn't it at all. Just was trying to be a display of peace in the midst of panic.

APPLICATION: And that's really what I see this story being about—not so much about the difficulties and dangers of a storm or getting through a storm in one piece, but finding rest and peace in the storm.

- It's true, life is full of storms. In a Greater SENSE: The world is one big, brewing storm. It seems as though God is silent to the cry of justice against the wicked. It appears as though the world is destined to sink while we, as Christians, are doing everything we can to keep the boat afloat and fight a wearisome and unending battle.
- When we are in those moments and feel as though Jesus is sleeping on the sidelines, uninterested and uninvolved, how do we find His peace? How do we learn faith? How do we rest when we feel as though we must be in control just to survive?
- WELL, the passage tells us five things we need to be always mindful of when in the middle of these moments in life.

## 1 Jesus will get us to the other side

### BIBLE PASSAGE

#### Mark 4:35 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>35</sup> On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

### APPLICATION

Let's not miss this. The expectation that Jesus set before they even departed was that they were going to the other side.

- Despite what was between here and there, Jesus's full intention was that they were going to get there. There was a purpose awaiting them on the other side.

### THE POINT:

### QUOTE

**“No storm, circumstance, difficulty, impossibility, or demonic force can hinder God's promises from coming to pass.”**

### APPLICATION

We often misplace this truth.

- “God promised me that I was going to be successful and rich and now I’m bankrupt.” Did he really promise that?
- “God promised me that new career, and everything went south.” Did He really promise that?
- "God promised that I would get a perfect marriage and my kids would never go astray." Did He really promise that?

I’m not saying that God doesn’t make us promises regarding the direction and outcome of our lives or circumstances. But I am saying that, at our foundation, we need to always return to the promises we know are in His word.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

## 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>24</sup> He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

**BIBLE PASSAGE****1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

<sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**APPLICATION**

Through every storm and difficult, God promises that He is at work sanctifying you and doing things in your life to make you blameless in Body, spirit, and soul.

- Hey, you might not know where you're going, but Jesus does and He is going to get you there! Don't see your storm as a hindrance to God's promise being fulfilled, but as an opportunity to trust Him as He gets you to the right destination.

**2 Journeying with Jesus may look different than what you expect****BIBLE PASSAGE****Mark 4:36-37 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

<sup>36</sup> Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.



<sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

## APPLICATION

The Sea of Galilee is famous for its unexpected and violent storms.

- It's situated about 700 feet (210 meters) below sea level, surrounded by hills and mountains, including the Golan Heights to the east. Cool air from the surrounding highlands can rapidly descend through the narrow valleys, colliding with the warm, moist air over the sea. This clash of air masses can create sudden and intense windstorms. The funnel-like shape of the valleys can amplify the wind speeds as they reach the lake. **(Show Video)**
- Within the course of 15 minutes, the lake can go from a still, glassy calm to 40 mph winds and 6-10 foot waves.

In the same way that Galilee storms can come as a surprise, the “various trials” we face in life can be unexpected and difficult. Difficulties that seem to come out of nowhere and hinder the direction we really believed God wanted us to go.

## APPLICATION

Jesus was in the boat and other boats also followed – The thought: “What can go wrong if we are in the boat with Jesus? What can go wrong if we are following what Jesus told us to do?”

**NOTICE - the disciples were doing the right thing, obeying Jesus. But, they wrongly assumed that doing the right thing automatically protected them from danger and difficulty.**

EXAMPLE: Paul, traveling under the Spirit's direction to Jerusalem, was warned through prophecy that he would be persecuted if he continued. The people wanted Paul to avoid his journey. What was Paul's response?

**BIBLE PASSAGE****Acts 21:13 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

<sup>13</sup> Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

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**APPLICATION**

I've found that it's often exciting to obey a call of Jesus (step out on the water), but once you get out there, it's always not quite what you were expecting.

**APPLICATION:** I remember having visions of grandeur about being a pastor, teaching powerful sermons, growing the church, saving the lost. Then I became a pastor, at the Jesus' command and the Spirit's leading. Wow, I've been surprised to say the least. I've tried to quite a couple times.

**WHY?**

Sometimes, when you obey Jesus' call, you think it's because you're ready. But sometimes, Jesus calls you to reveal that you're not. Sometimes, he calls us into the unexpected because it's only in the darkest, bleakest moments that we will fully be illuminated by the presence and power of Jesus.

And remember, Jesus' goal is not our safety; It is not our preservation from difficulty.

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**ILLUSTRATION**

***In The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, Mr. Beaver's assessment of Aslan the Lion is absolutely stunning. When asked if the Lion was safe, he responded, "Safe? He is no safe Lion, but He is good."***

***His goodness will protect and preserve us, but according to His will and His plan. He wants to mature us to the point where everything in this life is viewed from lenses of***

***faith.***

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### 3 Peace can be more powerful than protection

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#### BIBLE PASSAGE

### Mark 4:38-39 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

<sup>39</sup> Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

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#### APPLICATION

The kind of boat **[image]**:

- Found in 1986
  - 26’ long, 7’ wide, 4’ deep
  - Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on this sandbag that would have been used for balance.
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#### APPLICATION

Don’t you care that we are perishing?

- They weren't necessarily looking to Jesus for rescue, just for help. Their cry wasn't "Jesus, save us..." it was, "Jesus, we are all going to drown, including you! Don't you care? We are out here working to save you and ourselves; grab a bucket or a paddle and help us out here!
- I wonder if you've ever felt like this? In your secret heart, or even out loud, have you heard the echo of the words, "Jesus, don't you care...?" Don't you care about the cancer? Don't you care about my finances? Don't you care about my dreams?
- The problem with what the disciples did was not waking Jesus up. That was ok. The problem was that they assumed Jesus was not for them or that he was indifferent to their trouble.

It's easy to cast blame out of our doubt when it doesn't seem like Jesus is showing up according to our expectations. But we must remember an important truth that we will discover in a moment:

#### QUOTE

**“ Just because the storm is against you doesn't mean that Jesus is.**

#### APPLICATION

Jesus was sleeping on purpose, not to display a lack of care, but to portray the presence of supernatural peace amid a threatening storm.

- When Jesus awakes, the first thing he does is he speaks to the storm, "**PEACE, be still.**"

Notice several things about this:

- It's a command** - GREEK - second person singular - It's the same structure that is used when we see Jesus rebuking a demon. It's almost as if Jesus is talking to the conscious forces behind the storm. You get the sense that though the storm didn't surprise Jesus, and though he was fully aware of what they were headed into, he didn't create the storm. The way he rebukes it gives us the sense that perhaps there was a demonic force behind the storm attempting to throw off the resolve and faith of the disciples. Jesus doesn't make a suggestion, not does he beat around the bush,

wondering if he has the authority over both the spiritual realm and nature itself. When Jesus issues a command, everything must obey.

- b. **Jesus is speaking to two audiences-** When Jesus commands, "Peace. Be still," He was clearly commanding the wind and storm. The sentence structure indicates that he spoke to the wind "Peace," and he spoke to the waves, "Be still." The wind ceased, and the waves were calmed. But I believe the passage indicates that the command was not only to the wind and the waves, but to the faithlessness and the fear of the disciples:

1. **[Mar 4:40 NKJV] [40] But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"** - Jesus wants to speak to our fear, "Peace," and speak to our doubt "be still."

2. **[Jas 1:6 NKJV] [6] But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.**

- c. When Jesus said, "Peace be still," ***He was bringing around Him what was already within Him.*** When Jesus was asleep, what was he displaying? He was at peace, and he was still because he was fully resting in God's providence plan.

- How does one sleep through a storm of such magnitude? Yes, I'm sure Jesus was physically tired, but there was more. This is a picture that had internal peace, rest and trust in God.
- Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah).
- So, what are the implications of this statement?

## BIBLE PASSAGE

### John 14:27 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

## APPLICATION

**The disciples' peace was rooted in their protection and preservation. Jesus' peace was rooted in the promises and purposes of God the Father. Listen, if you're in need of**

**internal peace that the world cannot give to you, look no further than Jesus. If you want a supernatural peace within you that overflows, bringing supernatural peace to the storms around you, it will take the willingness to fully submit to God's plan in the storm with resting confidence that He will see you through to His desired outcome.**

## 4 The Destination is Greater Faith

### BIBLE PASSAGE

#### Mark 4:40 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>40</sup> But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

### APPLICATION

Notice that he poses his rebuke in the form of two questions: Why are you fearful? How is it that you have no faith? (God is always good with answering our objections with His questions. And they are questions that silence our pride and humble us."

At least six times in the gospel, Jesus challenges his disciples' "Little faith." In each instance, he compares little faith to a lack of awareness of God's ability and faithfulness.

- Fearful = cowardly. In other words, you've seen Jesus do the miraculous: Demons obey Him, He knows men's thoughts, and the most powerful men can't win an argument against Him.
- This is what God is still telling us: After all you've been through with Christ, do you still not trust His heart when you can't understand? Do you still not believe His promises or rest on His authority?

Every storm we face is used by Jesus to cause us to come to a place where we **MUST** look to Him by faith in the midst of the difficulty, trial, or obstacle.

**QUOTE**

**“Recalling God's faithfulness in the past will calm our fears of the future.”**

**APPLICATION**

“Just have faith” sounds cliché, but it’s what Jesus said. The difference between Him and us is that we often use it as an excuse because we don’t know the answer. Jesus says it is the answer.

## 5 Storms help us see Jesus Clearly

**BIBLE PASSAGE**

### Mark 4:41 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>41</sup> And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!”

**APPLICATION**

Notice the disciples go from fearing the storm to fearing Jesus. It's hitting them that Jesus is no ordinary rabbi with some capability for occasional miracles.

- In the Jewish mind and Hebrew scriptures, many men of God and prophets could heal the sick or perform miracles, but the scripture made it clear that only Yahweh could command creation.

## BIBLE PASSAGE

### Psalms 107:25-29 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>25</sup> For He commands and raises the stormy wind, Which lifts up the waves of the sea.

<sup>26</sup> They mount up to the heavens, They go down again to the depths; Their soul melts because of trouble.

<sup>27</sup> They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, And are at their wits' end.

<sup>28</sup> Then they cry out to the Lord in their trouble, And He brings them out of their distresses.

<sup>29</sup> He calms the storm, So that its waves are still.

## APPLICATION

Over and over again in the gospel of Mark, Mark makes it a point to show us that Jesus was doing what only Yahweh, the God of the OT could do.

- Jesus forgives sin. Only God can forgive sin.
- Jesus commands creation, and it obeys; only God can command creation.

## CONCLUSION

This season, no matter what storms you experience or find yourself in, take them as an opportunity to trust a Savior who is in control, who is at rest and at work. You might find a



moment of much-needed surrender. Instead of being defeated by the storm, you might find yourself pulling up a pillow next to Jesus and resting in the goodness of God.

You might say, Josh, will my storm ever end? And I would encourage you, the storm is not the most important thing. It's the Savior who is in the storm with you that matters. When we learn to focus on the savior, the storm becomes a platform for us to find rest and the peace of God that passes understanding, guarding our hearts and our minds.

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#### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

### **Psalms 121:1-8 (NKJV - New King James Version)**

<sup>1</sup> I will lift up my eyes to the hills— From whence comes my help?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

<sup>3</sup> He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

<sup>4</sup> Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither slumber nor sleep.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper; The Lord is your shade at your right hand.

<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day, Nor the moon by night.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore.

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