

“The Storm Before the Calm”

Based on Mark 4:35-41 (NIV) June 24, 2018

Rev. Roger Madden, preaching

Mark 4:37 - A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

† **The Sea of Galilee is 680 feet below sea level and it is surrounded by hills.**

† **Very common for thunderstorms - waves could reach 20 feet high and be very violent.**

Mark 4:38 - 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?"

† **The disciples were terrified, and some of them were seasoned fishermen.**

† **How can Jesus not care? He is in the boat with them!**

Mark 4:39-40

39 He (Jesus) 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?"

† **Jesus does not react to the disciples panic first.**

† **Jesus deals with the storm first, then he asks the disciples about their faith.**

† **Who do the disciples first focus on? Themselves.**

† **Who do I often first focus on? Myself.**

† **Who does Jesus first focus on? God.**

Mark 4:41 - They (the disciples) were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

† **God controls everything in my life, if I let Him.**

† **God frees me from fear, if I let Him.**

† **God turns my storm into calm, if I let Him.**

Applying Today's Message in My Life:

† What “storms” have I gone through in my life?

† In what specific ways did God show me His care and love through those “storms”?

† What “storm” am I now going through?

† In what specific ways is God showing me His care and love in my current “storm”?

† Am I more likely to focus on myself than God or God than myself in my “storms of life”?

† What is one way I can more fully focus on God's will the next time my life seems out of control and not my will first?
