

Faith Walk! - Sermon Discussion

Date : 23 March 2025

Sermon Title : Jesus: The Stories - The Storm

Speaker : Rev Peter Koh

Text : Mark 4:35-41

INTRODUCTION

The recent monsoon storms had created much inconvenience, and it can be really frightening to be caught in a big storm where roofs may be blown off and trees uprooted. Even though not everyone has experienced such a storm, 'storms' in our lives may be figurative and can come in the form of health issues, financial losses and burdens, losing a job, being bullied in school or workplace, losing loved ones and others.

Mark 4:35-41 talks about a storm in Jesus' followers' lives and to understand it better, we can divide it into the following three parts:

1. Storms in our lives (vv.35-37)

Due to the geographical setting of the Sea of Galilee where it is in a valley surrounded by mountains, it is subjected to sudden storms. It could be calm at one moment and hit by a storm the next. It can be the same with the figurative 'storms' in our lives. Following Jesus and being obedient to God does not guarantee a smooth sailing life without 'storms'. However, God promises that His presence will always be with us. 'Storms' will always be there in life, and they might even be overwhelming, but that could be where God wants us to be to build our faith and grow us.

There are two types of 'storms' in our lives:

External 'storms':

- Health issues
- Financial struggles
- Relationship problems such as friendship issues or marriage conflicts
- Examinations and assessments

Internal 'storms':

- Fear and anxiety
- Doubt
- Addiction
- Mental health

❖ **Our faith is being tested by the storms in our lives and God allows storms to develop us, not to destroy us.**

For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

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2. Storms test our faith (vv.28-39)

When storms suddenly happen in our lives, God might appear to be silent. But when we say a simple prayer, it does wonders because God knows our needs.

- Jesus sleeping in v.38 is not a sign of indifference or that He did not care. He was sleeping because He was not worried. It reflects Jesus' sovereignty and humanity.

As the disciples were gripped with fear, they questioned Jesus. Fear often makes us question God's presence and His care for us.

- Despite their fear and panic, they still ran to Jesus. It is fine to be honest in our prayers. We can talk to Jesus honestly even when we feel abandoned or overwhelmed.

Jesus said these three words, "Peace! Be Still!" and the storm obeyed. The same words can speak peace into our lives too. Jesus did not just calm the storm outside; He also confronted the 'storm' inside them, which was their fear.

- Jesus may not always remove the storm immediately, but He always offers peace in the storm. This does not mean that God is ignoring us in our struggles, but He is showing us that peace comes from trusting His presence and not our circumstances.

Jesus "...rebuked the wind and said to the sea,...". (v.39) Why did He rebuke the wind? The wind was the root cause of the storm, which could be likened to anxiety, fear, spiritual oppression, toxic thoughts etc in our lives. These things are invisible on the outside, but they stir in us. The sea represents the symptoms of the storm, which are our reactions, stress, emotional 'storms', and they are visible to people on the outside.

- Jesus rebuked the unseen before He addressed the seen. He deals with the causes, and not just the symptoms.

❖ **Whatever your situations may be, remember when you are in the boat with Jesus, even the scariest storm has to obey Him.**

3. Storms reveal our inner self (vv.40-41)

The ugly side of us may surface during storms. Do we manifest the fruit of the Spirit during a storm? Storms reveal the values in us. Jesus challenged their faith. Faith and fear often wrestle in the same boat. But only one gets to steer the boat. The storm was a test. It is a test not to fail them but to form them, so that they will be more like Jesus.

- Storms reveal what is really in us, whether it is fear or faith. Do we depend on our feelings or on who Jesus is?

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- The storm also revealed Jesus' true identity.

It became a platform for revelation. Sometimes we learn more about God in the storm than on the shore.

- ❖ **Jesus did not just want to calm the sea. He wanted to deepen our understanding of who He is, He is Lord over nature, over fear and over all.**

CONCLUSION

We may be shaken by storms in our lives but we will not be forsaken by Jesus. Storms will come but Jesus is always in your boat. Jesus may not move when you expect Him to, but He is never absent. Do not mistake God's silence for indifference. Sometimes He is just waiting for us to trust Him. Let us turn to Jesus in confidence and trust through every situation and let faith steer our lives to reach the other side safely.

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A. Review Sermon Application

Purpose: Reflect on how you have been embodying God's truth.

- 1a. How successful have you been in fulfilling what you/your group had committed to do for the last FaithWalk!?
- 1b. What were some challenges you faced and what would you like to celebrate?

- 2a. What are some recent 'storms' you have faced? Which of them are internal 'storms' and which of them are external 'storms'?
- 2b. How do you usually respond to 'storms' in your life before this sermon?
- 2c. Since hearing this sermon, how have you applied what you have learnt in your response to 'storms' in your life?

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B. Relate Sermon Content

Purpose: Relate with the Truth and Resolve for Transformation.

3. Read Mark 4:35-41 slowly and reflectively.
 - a. What does this passage tell you about man?
 - b. What does this passage tell you about God?
 - c. What does this passage tell you about the relationship between God and man?

4. Storms test your faith.
 - a. How do you think you have fared/will fare in this test?
 - b. What is/are the cause(s) that you need Jesus to deal with before the symptoms?
 - c. How can you turn to Jesus for help?

5. Storms reveal our inner self.
 - a. What has/have the 'storm'(s) in your life revealed to you?
 - b. What are some steps you can take to build your faith and deepen your understanding of Jesus?
 - c. How can your group members encourage or help you to fulfil 5b. above from now till your next meeting?

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C. Testimonies, Prayers and Action

Purpose: Give glory to God, seek Him and embody His Word.

6. Share about a 'storm' in your life that had helped you to know Jesus better and strengthened your faith in Him.

OR

Give thanks to God that even when Jesus seems to be silent when we go through 'storms' in our lives, His presence is always with us, and He is just waiting for us to trust Him.

7. With a prayer partner, give thanks to God for His purpose to grow you even when you go through 'storms' in your life. Seek the Holy Spirit's help to commit to the concrete steps to be taken in Question 5b. and give your support to one another in 5c. Pray also for faith to arise in our Faith Family so we may weather any 'storm', trusting in Jesus to bring us safely to the other side.

Optional items:

Suggested worship songs:

1. Yes and Amen – Housefires

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPL8Ymkisto&ab_channel=SuzanneF

2. Behold The Lamb – Passion

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1QRtxUF50&ab_channel=PassionVEVO

3. Still – Hillsong https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6dfB2Z-Ko&list=RD_n6dfB2Z-Ko&start_radio=1&ab_channel=ChristianLyrics

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n6dfB2Z-Ko&list=RD_n6dfB2Z-Ko&start_radio=1&ab_channel=ChristianLyrics

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