

Discussion Questions

The Time Has Come: The Gospel of Mark

These questions are designed to invite reflection on today's Bible passage and life application of the themes introduced in today's sermon.

Week 5: Authority Over the Storm

Mark 4:35-41

1. Recall a time you felt “caught in a storm” – either a literal natural disaster, or a time of unexpected upheaval. What happened? What were some of the things you thought and felt during the experience? How did it resolve?
2. In today's passage, Jesus asks His disciples for a change of scenery. In short order, they find themselves in crisis. What are the actual details of the crisis? Based on common superstitions, how might the disciples interpret the crisis?
3. Where is Jesus? What do the disciples say to Jesus? What does this suggest the disciples conclude about Jesus' posture toward them and their situation?
4. Think of some of the events or circumstances that represent “storms” in your life. What are some ways you react when faced with something unexpected and overwhelming?
5. What is Jesus' first response to the disciples' question, “Don't you care if we drown”? What does Jesus say to the disciples next? What Old Testament story does this scene parallel? To whom is Jesus comparing the disciples?
6. What, according to Jesus, is “faith”? What two things does Jesus prove to the disciples when He calms the storm? Where is Jesus relative to the storm? Where is Jesus relative to the disciples?
7. What is Jesus' relationship to *all* our circumstances – even our storms? Where is Jesus when our storms arise?
8. How do these two assurances – that Jesus is “over the storm” and “in the boat” – change our experience of even life's most unexpected and overwhelming circumstances?

Pray: Give thanks that “all things come to us, not by chance, but by God's Fatherly hand” (Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 27); invite Jesus to have authority not just over the storm, but over your life; ask Jesus to be with you in the storm, and use life's storms for His saving purposes.