

STORMS AT SEA

THE LESSON: MARK 4

Psalm 27:1 says, “The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” Like the psalmist, we may *know* that God is in control, but in life we encounter many “storms” that still manage to create a response of fear and anxiety in us. It can be hard to remember that our Creator is in charge when faced with such storms. But the scriptures tell us to fix our eyes on Jesus – especially when we are at our most distracted, disoriented and dismayed.

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The disciples had been following Jesus long enough to see some amazing things. They’d seen him heal people and cast out unclean spirits. *Where did this power come from?* They’d heard him teach with authority about the kingdom of God. *How could he know such things?* But they had not yet fully grasped who he was.

Now was the time for them to witness something new that would leave them marvelling. But this time, the lesson was to take place on the sea. The disciples were afraid of deep waters, where they knew that storms could arise suddenly and pose great danger to a small boat. Check out what happened.

AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON’T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE “FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES”, WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON’T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

Are you facing a “storm” in your life?

Bring the situation to God and close your time with the following prayer:

Thou, O Lord, that stillest the raging of the sea: hear us, and save us, that we perish not. O blessed Saviour, that didst save thy disciples ready to perish in a storm: hear us, and save us, we beseech thee.

(PRAYER IN RESPECT OF A STORM, BCP P. 635)

Has God brought you safely through a “storm”?

Spend some time in thanksgiving and close your time with the following prayer:

O gracious God and heavenly Father, we bless and glorify thy holy Name, for thy merciful deliverance from the recent peril [of the sea or of the enemy]; and we humbly beseech thee to give us grace so to rejoice in thy saving power, that we may serve thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(THANKSGIVING FOR DELIVERANCE FROM A STORM OR FROM THE ENEMY, BCP P. 636)

STORMS AT SEA

MARK 4: **THE STORM ANSWERS TO HIM**

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him.

³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.

³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

³⁹And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”