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JESUS DISPLAYS HIS AUTHORITY/POWER AS THE SON OF GOD

In Mark 4: 35-41; 5:1-20, 21-43 Jesus displays His authority or power over nature, demons, sickness and death. Let's look at each story and draw some principles to apply.

In the storm he calmed, he is showing his power over nature. The storm was furious and overwhelming -- it was too much to handle. The disciples were greatly overwhelmed and distressed, so fear had overtaken them. They woke Jesus and wanted him to do something! Jesus takes authority over the winds and the waves. This plainly displayed to these fearful disciples that he had much more authority than any man he had even power over the natural elements.

How about the storms in our lives? In the story Jesus took charge and took control of natural elements. While he may not miraculously control an actual storm except by prayer, there are emotional, physical storms in our lives that he takes control of. Problems and troubles like -- addictions, sickness, cancer, and brain injury, heart disease, family problems, abuse, anger problems or rage, divorce, job problems, legal, financial troubles, and even Covid-19. For our present distress, this virus fits well in the principle.

This virus or any pandemic can be just as overwhelming as this storm. With this virus all these physical, emotional problems, the problem at hand isn't the real problem. Many times, the virus or any epidemic or problem we are having up front is not the real problem. There is something deeper that needs to be dealt with, and many times it takes a storm to reveal that problem. The deeper problem may be a national, political problem, it may be a worldwide problem, or some dynamic personal problem we all are having.

So why then the storm? God may be telling us what we need to change or putting us to the test to draw us closer to Him. Hebrews 12:5-6 says, *"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."* So, the storm may be the discipline of the Lord to make us into the sons or children he wants us to be. (1Peter 1: 3-9; James 1: 2-12)

The key is: Jesus was on your boat. If Jesus is on our boat, He will take control. The storms will come, but if he has authority in our lives, we won't be overtaken. If he isn't on your boat, or he doesn't have authority in your life, maybe that's what he is saying to you by way of the storms... Let Jesus into your boat and give him full charge!

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