



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Surprising Presence of Jesus in the Storm

Speaker: Rich Villodas – Lead Pastor

Scriptures: Mark 4:35-41

Jesus Calms the Storm

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 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?”

39 He 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?”

41 They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, we will continue our journey through the Gospel of Mark by sitting with one of the most familiar and beloved stories in the Gospels. In it, we are invited to consider the storms we face in our own lives, personally, relationally, and as a community. Through this passage, we will be gently reminded of the comforting and sometimes surprising presence of Jesus with us in every storm.

Sermon Questions:

1. Life is unpredictable- things can change at a moment's notice and we are constantly adjusting to a new reality. What is something unpredictable that has happened in your life recently or a change that you are navigating?
2. Reread the text and make observations. Although it may be a familiar passage, try to come to it with fresh eyes and an open heart to notice or learn something new. As a reminder from the guide below here are few pointers for making observations:
 - 5 W's and H: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How?
 - Look for repeated words, comparisons, contrasts, cause and effect
 - What comes immediately before and after the passage?
 - Note characters, relationships, locations, time, actions, and reactions.
3. The story starts with “when evening came.” Jesus and the disciples got in the boat in a time of darkness. What metaphorical darkness is most impacting you right now that is happening in our world, our country, or your personal life?

4. In the Ancient Near East they saw the sea as a place of chaos. There are two kinds of chaos represented in the story: the external storm and the internal storm of anxiety that the disciples were feeling. We experience two kinds of anxiety: situational and soul. Situational anxiety comes and goes based on the circumstances that are happening to us. However, soul anxiety is more persistent and leads us to begin to question the trustworthiness of God. What kind of anxiety are you experiencing? What does it feel like? Where do you feel like God doesn't care or are having trouble trusting that he is trustworthy?
 - Anxiety can get between us and the love and trustworthiness of God. The disciples didn't question whether Jesus could calm the storm but whether he cared enough to do something about it. Jesus was asleep in the boat because he lived with great confidence in the trustworthiness of God. When the disciples woke him up the text says: "he got up." He got up is the story of the gospel in a nutshell. Jesus is awake and responsive to the realities of the world and our life. Pray for the areas where you need God to increase your trust that he is with you in the external and internal storms of life.