

A Study of Mark - Lesson 11

Mark 4:35-41 "Jesus Calms the Storm"

4³⁵ 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!" /

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Vocabulary

1. **Furious:** extremely or violently angry. Livid, fuming, enraged, mad.
2. **Squall:** a sudden strong wind, often with rain or snow. A short but noisy disturbance. A brief but intense outburst of temper, like a temper tantrum.
3. **Swamped:** To cause a boat to fill with water & sink, or become full of water and sink. To overwhelm somebody by being too much or too many to cope with. (*I am swamped at work. I need a secretary.*)
4. **Stern:** (n.) the front part of a boat. Also can mean severe, grim
5. **Cushion:** a fabric case filled with soft material, a small pillow or pad
6. **Drown:** to die, normally in water
7. **Rebuke:** (v.) reproach, or reprimand. Idiom: to haul over the coals
8. **Calm:** peace, quiet, stillness
9. **Terrified:** very, very afraid. very frightened. Scared.

Questions

1. Where is the Lake of Galilee? What are the conditions of a storm?
2. What is a “squall”?
3. What was Jesus doing in the storm?
4. What happens if a boat is swamped?
5. What does “rebuke” mean? Have you ever rebuked a child or a student?
6. Why would the wind and the waves obey Jesus?
7. The disciples gained peace and lost fear. How can Jesus help us do that?

Notes

1. The Sea of Galilee also has other names: Kinneret, Lake of Gennesaret, or Lake Tiberias. It is the largest freshwater lake in Israel. The Sea is 13 miles long and up to 7 miles wide. The River Jordan flows through it from north to south. At the time of Jesus, fishing was big business and the fish were often exported.
2. The Sea of Galilee is in a valley caused by the separation of the African and Arabian Plates. It is subject to earthquakes and in the past had volcanic activity. The Bible uses the term *sea* but it is a lake.
3. The area around the Sea of Galilee was dotted with villages and many docks for boats. It is located near several major highways or trade routes. It was not a rural backwater, but a populated cosmopolitan area.
4. Literally, Jesus calmed the storm. But he also calmed the fears of these tough men in the boat. He gave peace and assurance to the disciples.
5. Jesus can give us peace in our worries and anxieties. In the storms of life, Jesus can calm us and our fears.

Pronunciation: Emphasis, Power English

Power English is very important to Internationals. If you speak too softly, it is assumed that you are afraid or subservient. That lack of power or authority in your voice means you receive little credit for what English you really do know.

In business, the manager or team leader uses power English and speaks with authority.

Practice saying the words of Jesus, “*Quiet! Be still!*” All of this passage should be read with authority. Remember to use correct volume, don’t yell, but don’t whisper either. Match the volume of your teacher.