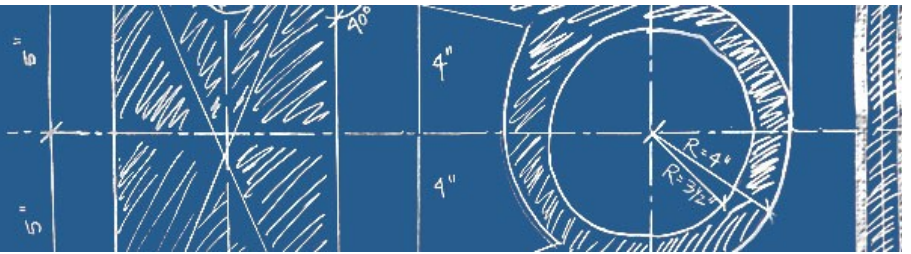


Faith Builders



April 18 – Jesus Calms the Storm Mark 4:35-41

BACKGROUND for Parents

The significance of this story of Jesus calming the storm at sea is underscored by the fact that it appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). Not only does Jesus remain calm during the storm; he remains asleep. What does that say about his confidence in the protection of the Father?

The disciples are less confident. Their little boat is being beaten badly by the storm. Although many of the disciples are experienced fisher people, accustomed to storms on the Sea of Galilee (which is actually a lake rather than a sea), this storm is exceptionally violent and worrisome.

In their distress, the disciples don't just cry out for Jesus's help. They ask him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" (Mark 4:38) Jesus immediately deals with the situation, but he is clearly disappointed by their lack of trust.

We don't know what the disciples expected Jesus to do when they woke him. We do know that the way that he calmed the wind immediately with just his rebuke fills them with as much awe as had the raging storm. While they are willing to follow Jesus, they don't quite grasp who he is or what it will mean to be his follower.

In our daily lives, are we fully able to recognize Jesus for who he really is? Do we value his teaching, but believe that we must be self-reliant and self-sufficient? Do we give him our deepest needs and fears, or do we hang on to them, trusting only in our own power? Are we able to sleep through the storms of life? Do we miss moments of grace because they don't fit our expectations?

