



WHAT'S ROCKING YOUR BOAT?

Mark 4:35 – 41

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Bob Walpole, Guest Speaker

For over forty years Pastor Bob Walpole has found joy in his calling to preach and teach the inspired Word of God and Shepherd God's people. The emphasis of his pulpit ministry is the careful study and exposition of the Bible, and its application to our daily lives. During his years as a senior pastor, he served three California churches in San Diego, San Jose, and Santa Paula. For the past seven years, God has lead Bob to encourage and serve local churches through pulpit supply and as an Interim Pastor with an emphasis on training and supporting Pastor Search Teams. Bob holds a Master of Arts degree from Louisiana Baptist Theological Seminary. Bob and his wife, Cheryl, live in Ventura County, and have two adult children; and three grandchildren. Cheryl is currently serving as Substitute Teaching Leader for Bible Study Fellowship in Camarillo. When Bob is not speaking, they are excited to call ENCOUNTER their church home.

MESSAGE NOTES

Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. — Isaiah 41:10 NASB

A Needed Retreat (vs. 35 – 36)

On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him."

A Raging Storm (vs. 37)

"And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat. So much that the boat was already filling up.

- *... And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. — Matthew 28:20*
- *I will never desert you, nor will I never forsake you, so that we may confidently say, the Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. — Hebrews 13:5 – 6*
- *The Lord of hosts is with us. — Psalms 46:7*

A Welcome Rescue (vs. 38 – 39)

Jesus Himself 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?" And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm."

- **Fear can cause us to question God's care (vs.38)**
- **Fear can cause us to forget God's faithfulness**
- **Fear can cause us to doubt God's Word (vs.35)**



A Fearful Reaction (vs. 40 – 41)

And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Someone asked Dwight L. Moody how he managed to remain so intimate in his relationship with Christ. His simple reply was, "I have come to know Him as the best friend I have ever found. I have BELIEVED He is Savior, I have BELIEVED He is God, I have BELIEVED His atonement on the cross is mine, and have come to Him and submitted myself on my knees, I have surrendered everything to Him, and got up and stood by His side as my dearest friend. And THERE ISN'T ANY PROBLEM in my life, but that I turn and speak to Him as naturally as to someone in the same room. He's my dearest friend." – Quoted by William Anderson

When You're Boat is Being Attacked by the Spirit of Fear

Don't forget — He is in the boat with you — He has power over any situation — He is only a prayer away.

Don't allow fear to erode your faith — "Do you care."

Don't doubt His Word

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The big idea in this event has to be the profound question Jesus asks in vs. 40, "Why are you afraid?" Please identify the circumstances in your life that might be causing you to fear today.
- In vs. 37, a particular word in the original language was used "SEISMOS," to describe the intensity of the storm. We are familiar with this word to some degree. A seismologist studies earthquakes and a seismograph measures them. It was pointed out that this word was used only two other times in the New Testament. Can you identify the two other events? (Matthew 27:51) (Matthew 28:1 – 2)
- Please read vs. 38. Explain how the spirit of fear can erode our faith and confidence in God.
- Again in vs. 38, the disciples cried out to Jesus and He acted on their behalf. How does this truth encourage your faith in the storms you face?
- Please read vs. 39. What does this prove about our wonderful Savior, Jesus?
- Read vs. 40. Why did Jesus ask the disciples, "Do you still have no faith?" What did Jesus mean by asking such a question?
- Explain how the men on board with Jesus had shown lack of faith, and what is necessary in our Christian walk to strengthen our faith?
- Consider how in vs. 41 the disciples now ask a question after witnessing the power of the Lord Jesus Christ on the sea that day. How should this truth strengthen our faith and lesson our fear?