

JESUS AND THE STORM

MARK 4:35-41; 5:1-20; 6:53-56

Have you ever seen the lake or the ocean in a fierce storm when the waves are bigger than the boat and it's dark and scary?

The book of Mark in the Bible tells us that one evening Jesus and His disciples got into a boat to sail over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. But suddenly it began to be windy and soon there was a terrible storm. The waves dashed into the boat and began to fill it with water so that the boat was beginning to sink. But Jesus was asleep on a pillow in the stern of the boat. "Master" His disciples shouted to Him, "Save us, we will all be drowned! We're dying, don't you care?" Then Jesus stood up and spoke to the winds and the sea and said "Peace be still." The winds stopped blowing and the sea became very still and calm. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Why were you afraid? How is it that you have so little faith?" Then Jesus' disciples were very afraid. They wondered who Jesus was that even the winds and the waves obeyed His command.

Wow, Jesus is really the great God and our Prince of Peace when the storms and troubles of life threaten us too. Then Jesus and His disciples went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

There was a man there with an evil spirit in him. He was demon possessed. The man had torn off his clothes and was naked and very fierce so that no one could go by him without getting hurt. He had often been tied with chains to keep him at home but he broke the chains and went out and lived in a graveyard crying out and even cutting himself with stones. When Jesus stepped ashore, the man ran to Him and fell down at His feet and worshipped Him. The evil spirits in the man were frightened when they saw Jesus for they knew that He could make them go away. They recognized Jesus and begged him to send them into some pigs. Jesus told them they could go. So the evil spirits went into about two thousand pigs. The pigs ran over a cliff and tumbled off into the sea and were drowned. Then the men who were taking care of the pigs told everyone in the area what had happened. When the people came and saw the wild man sitting there quietly, clothed, and in his right mind, they became afraid and asked Jesus to leave their country. The man, who Jesus had healed, wanted to go away with Jesus. But Jesus told him to go back home and tell everyone what great things Jesus had done for him. He obeyed Jesus. The next time Jesus visited that place, the people immediately recognized Him and came running to Him bringing sick people for Jesus to heal.

Jesus is so wonderful yet even today so many are afraid to trust Him. So it is our joy and our act of obedience to tell others what Jesus has done for us so that they too can love and trust Jesus.

Aren't you glad that Jesus is alive today and is still taking care of us when we let Him live in our heart? When scary things happen or when Satan tries to make trouble for us we need Jesus to help us. Jesus is always with us and we can talk to Him in prayer at any time. Read today's story in your Bible in Mark chapter 4 verse 35 to Mark chapter 5 verse 20 and then read Mark chapter 6 verses 53 to 56.