

Sermon Notes

Questioning Jesus: “Do You Not Care?” – Mark 4:35-41

David Renwick, February 22, 2015

I. The Bible is a Question Book, not just an Answer Book

Lenten Sermon Series: Questions!

- Sundays: Questions to Jesus; Wednesdays: Questions from Jesus
- There are 500+ questions in the Gospels; 113 in the Psalms

Asking the right questions is the first step in the scientific method:

- “What good questions did you ask today?” (Physicist, Isidor Rabi)

Asking good questions: Not necessarily a sign of faithlessness?

- Can be a critical (and Biblical) part of spiritual growth?

II. Today – “Do You not care if we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38)

a. There is a deep human need to know that someone cares for us:

- absence of caring is as dangerous to health as smoking and obesity (BYU study 2010: “Social Relations and Mortality Risks”)
- Seniors and pets: lower blood pressure, cholesterol, stress! (www.agingcare.com)

b. Do You Know Who Cares for You?

- Family? Friend? (Pet!?) Church staff/friends? God?

III. Doubting that God Love us or Cares for us?

- Times are hard** – financial, physical, relational difficulties, etc.
(e.g., *Psalm 31:10* “My life is spent with sorrow, my strength fails”)
- Our lives are Imperfect/Unlovable** – personal failures, doubts
(e.g., *the disciples: Mark 4:40-41*)
- God is close, but** . . . seems incomprehensible or unloving (e.g., Bk. Of Job;
or Psalm 13:1 “How long, O Lord, will you forget me forever?”)
- God feels distant** (e.g., *Psalm 10:1* “Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?”)

IV. The Assurance of God’s Unfailing Care

- Specific Events in History** confirm God’s unshakeable love
 - Exodus* – see Deuteronomy 7:7-8; *ii. Incarnation* – see Philippians 2:6-8
 - Crucifixion* – see 1 John 4:9-10
- God’s Unseen Purposes at work**
Romans 8:28, 38-39- All things work together for good;
nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
Hebrews 12:6- The Lord disciplines those he loves.
- Who and Where Jesus is:** The Lord of Creation is in our boat too!

Mark 4:35-41

35On that day, (Jesus was teaching parables by the Sea of Galilee) when evening had come,

Jesus said to them, “*Let us go across to the other side.*”

36And leaving the crowd behind,

they took him with them in the boat, just as he was.

Other boats were with him.

37A great windstorm arose,

and the waves beat into the boat,

so that the boat was already being swamped.

38But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion;

and they woke him up, and said to him,

“*Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?*”

39He woke up

and rebuked the wind,

and said to the sea, “*Peace! Be still!*”

Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

40He said to them,

“*Why are you afraid?*

Have you still no faith?”

41And they were filled with great awe and said to one another,

“*Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*”