

Text; Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup>But 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?" <sup>39</sup>He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Why are you so afraid? This is the question Jesus asked the disciples when their boat was being swamped by wind and waves.

How would you feel if waves were beating into your boat and it was filling up with water? Would you be Scared? Anxious? Frantically bailing it out? Praying?

And yet how can Jesus be asleep in the stern on a comfy cushion no less? What is it about Jesus that allows him to be at peace in the midst of such a storm? Does Jesus really not care that his students are perishing? So the disciples woke him up.

We know these storms, right? Times when you feel overwhelmed by the waves of life beating into your boat... when you feel like you are being swamped...waves of grief perhaps... waves of broken relationships... waves of worry about things happening in our families or in the world.

What is swamping your boat these days? What are you afraid of?

Is your faith in Jesus helping you through?

I shared this text with 98 year-old Edna once in her room at a residential living facility. Edna was a smart lady. I looked up to her. She loved to read, knit, and write books. While I was reading this

story, I noticed that all she could do was nod her head. After I finished she said, “You gotta have faith.” She had been through so many storms in her life, ups and downs, in plenty and want, sickness and health, that she knew this to be true. She knew first hand that Jesus had the power to calm storms with a word... “Peace! Be Still!”

And even the wind and waves obey Jesus.

Jesus does care when we cry out to him. We can wake him up with our prayers, tears, worries, laments. He can calm our storms too with a powerful word, “Peace, Be Still.”

I will close with singing this song:

PUT YOUR HAND IN THE HAND

<b>G</b>									<b>D</b>
Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the waters									
	<b>Am</b>			<b>D</b>				<b>G</b>	
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea									
			<b>G7</b>					<b>C</b>	
Take a look at yourself and you can look at the others									
differently									
		<b>G</b>		<b>E</b>		<b>A</b>		<b>D</b>	<b>G</b>
By putting your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee									