

Why You Should Be Scared of Jesus //

Mark 4:35–41 // *The Whole Story*

#32

(39 minutes)

Mark 4, if you have your Bibles. While you're turning there, you just heard about a **conference that we're hosting right here** at the Summit, on October 18/19.

- We're calling it "**Centered and Sent.**" The idea is that the more **centered** we are on the gospel, the more **sent** we become as believers. We're going to be talking about how the church can stay **radically distinct** and still be **culturally relevant**.
- I'm **excited about this conference for a couple** of reasons.
 - **One:** we're going to have church leaders coming here from all across the country.
 - **Two:** the speakers are going to be phenomenal. Some of our Summit pastors contributing, but we're also bringing in some great guys.
 - **Bryan Loritts**, who was just here a few weeks ago... a friend of mine named **Joby Martin**...
 - **Ed Stetzer**...
 - and YODA himself—**Tim Keller**. **YODA PIC.**
 - Keller does, like, 1 conference every 3 years.

This is going to be a big leadership event, and we want a lot of **you** to

Works Consulted:

Kevin DeYoung & J.D. Greear, Mark 4

John Mark Comer, "Quiet!"

Tony Evans, "The Test of Mark"

Tim Keller, Mark 4

John MacArthur, "Calming the Storm"

Sally Lloyd-Jones, "Captain of the Storm"

be a part of it. So we've got a **special discount** for you Summit people who want to attend: \$90 off. That's a crazy good deal for what you're going to get. So go to "centeredandsent.com." and sign up with promo code "summit."

Okay, still with me? Mark 4.

We come today to what has to be one of the **most underrated** miracles of Jesus' ministry. I say it is underrated because it reveals an essential element in our relationship with Jesus that most people overlook: the fear of Jesus.

And **I know that sounds strange**, because we think Jesus is supposed to be meek and mild, tossing children up in the air, petting lambs and looking pensively off up into the sunset, his permed hair blowing in the breeze. And yes, **the tenderness of Jesus is amazing**—we discussed that last week.

But **this weekend we're going to see a different side** of Jesus—one every bit as important in your relationship with him. Fear. If fact, without the fear of Jesus, you won't find his tenderness that precious or comforting.

Many people today assume that a God who should be feared would be guilty of some kind of fault. That "the fear of God" is some kind of leftover relic from some oppressive, archaic view of religion.

But **any time you are in the presence of greatness** you feel a sense of fear.

- **Last year I told you about the moment I achieved my lifelong dream of meeting Michael Jordan.**

I was **9 years old** when he hit the game-winning shot against Georgetown to win UNC their second national championship. (Think **last year's national championship**, but in reverse.)

From that point on "Air Jordan" became more than just my favorite basketball player: he was my role model. I wanted to be like Mike. **And I was convinced that if I worked hard enough**, I could dunk like him. My friends and I lowered our basketball goals to 7 feet and spent endless hours perfecting our split-legged, tongue-extended dunks while **blasting Whitney Houston's *One Moment in Time*** at full volume on my Jambox.

Those dunks felt so "right" when I was doing them, but **when I watched the videos later, they just didn't quite look like his**. And when I watch those videos **now**, all I can think is, *Lord Jesus, what was wrong with me?* I look more like a wounded duck coming in for a crash landing than an athlete honing in on perfection.

Well, you can imagine how excited I was when, during my eighth grade year, I found out that the great MJ was going to be in a charity golf tournament not far from my house and that my dad could get tickets. I could have cared less about golf—then or now—so my best friend and I set out early that morning with one agenda—to meet the man, the myth, the legend himself. For 8 hours we followed his caravan around the course. We never even got close. His bouncers clearly had experience with people like us.

That is, until the very end of the day. I was standing, discouraged, near the exit of the golf course waiting for my parents to pick me up when I saw a purple, Porsche Carrera 944 winding its way down the road toward the exit. I knew it immediately: *Michael*.

I turned around and yelled to my friend, "It's him! It's Jordan!" A couple dozen people heard me and ran over to where I was standing. As he approached, Jordan slowed down his car and rolled down his window, apparently looking for someone. And then my best friend saw his opportunity, grabbed my shoulders and shoved me in through Jordan's passenger window.

There I was, less than 3 inches from the face of the man I had idolized for the past five years. I was so close I could have licked him (and one of my lifelong regrets is that I did not). I nervously sputtered out, "Hi, Mike." The 6'6" megastar cut a sideways glance at me and said, "Dude. Get out of my car." I pulled my head out, turned to the crowd, put my hands up in the air and yelled, "He talked to me!"

The presence of greatness has a strange effect on us. When we encounter it, we feel a curious mixture of desire and terror. We're not sure whether we want to draw close or run away.

Here's the question: If being in the presence of *human* greatness makes us feel that way, what is it like to be in the presence of *infinite* greatness?

- If I was that **star-struck in the presence of someone** whose glory consisted of the fact that he can jump thirty-six inches higher than the average man, what is it like to find yourself in the presence of the One who spoke the universe into existence?

Have you ever thought how big and powerful God must be?

- This summer, when we were out in the Zulu—the African bush—we were amazed at how many more stars you could see at night. We were miles away from the nearest electric light, and when there is no light pollution, it looked like you could see millions of them.
- Astronomers say that on the clearest night 9,096 stars are visible. And that's out of **3000 billion trillion** stars. That's a 3 with 24 0's.

- And what's more than that, Isaiah says he knows the name of every single one of them. I sometimes forget the names of people whose wedding ceremony I have performed. He looks out at each of the 3K billion trillion and says, "Hi, Bob." "Pegasus." Hey there, "T3.14159-er." I can't remember the names of everyone in my small group.
- **And each of those 3,000 billion trillion stars**, puts out the same amount of energy as 500,000 megaton bombs. Every second. And God created it all with just a word.

How do you think we are supposed to feel in the presence of *that* God?

Mark 4:35–42

Watch what happens in Mark 4: ³⁵When evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." (He was talking about the other side of the **Sea of Galilee**. On the other side was Gentile territory. Jesus was headed over into Gentile territory. They **could have taken the land route**, but Jesus wants them to take the boat. That's an important detail I'll come back to later.) ³⁶And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. (I need to stop here because there is a little textual thing here that **counters an objection I hear people make more and more often** about the Bible, and that is that it is a **collection of legends**.)

- This idea has been popularized by things like the Da Vinci Code or people like Bart Ehrman.
 - And the **basic gist of the theory goes** like this: The **first disciples saw Jesus as prophet** with a special connection to God who taught and did some great things, and **over time those stories got stretched** to include Jesus' divinity because that made them more powerful.
 - Something like, "Jesus **prayed for someone** to get better and they did" and that turned into "he healed them." Or Jesus saying, "I really hope that it is good weather for our

picnic tomorrow" turned into, "He controls the weather!" Or, the original disciples thought Jesus was a voice from God **and later generations wrote that down as Jesus claiming to be** the Son of God.

- The **reason this theory has become popular** is because people realize that the idea that the disciples just made these stories up as directly lies is unlikely, **mainly because it is hard to establish a sufficient motive** for the disciples to do so.
 - When **someone lies it is because** their lie gets them something—usually power, money, etc.
 - But **these lies did not gain the disciples anything**. It didn't get them power and money. It brought them only persecution and death.
- So, this **new theory suggests that they didn't grossly** lie... the stories just got exaggerated over time and by the time they were written down here, the **legend was indistinguishable** from the fact.
- There are many problems with that theory, but here's one small one: **these stories don't read like legends**. These stories explicitly claim to be eyewitness accounts, and they *read* like eyewitness accounts.
 - And one of the many evidences of that are **spurious little details** like these. Vs. 35, "And other boats were with him." **What's that got to do with anything?**
 - **Nothing, it's just a guy recalling what he saw** from memory. There are plenty of legends that exist in 1st century literature, and **none of them read like these**. These read like eyewitness accounts.

³⁷And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.³⁸ But he 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?"

Now, this **must have been some kind** of storm, because these are *experienced* fishermen, and they've been in lots of storms.

- The Sea of Galilee, where they are, was an area prone to storms.
 - The **Sea itself is 700 feet below sea level**, and the mountain range that circles it rises up to 9,200 feet above sea level, which means the **mixture of cold air** from the mountains and the warm air from the sea make it conducive to really bad storms.
 - **I've been there, and even today**, if you go to the **little restaurants** along the western side of the sea, which are always up on stilts, there are **little signs that tell you if a storm comes to get your car out** because in the course of an hour the parking lot can flood by up to 10 feet, and so by the time you are done with dinner your car might be floating in the ocean.
- This was **one of those kinds** of storms.

Meanwhile, Jesus, who is tired from a tough day of ministry, has a pillow over his head trying to catch some sleep. We **know his sleep is intentional**, because he has a cushion. When you have a cushion, you intend to sleep.

- **When I see you bring a neck pillow into the service** I know you have already decided you are not going to make it through the sermon.
- He was planning to sleep. But why is he intending to sleep if he knows a storm is coming? Surely, if he controls the weather, he knows the weather. So he knows it is coming, and he's planning to sleep through it.
- You see, this is **all a set up**.¹

So the disciples, in fear, **wake him up with the question**, "Don't you care that we are perishing?"

¹ And, btw, that's another random detail. How do you know he has a cushion, unless you were there to see it?

- Which, has to be **one of the dumbest questions** ever uttered.
- But do you ever feel like this? "Jesus, we're about to die—you're being overwhelmed and crushed—and it's like you don't even care? You seem to be sleeping, if you even exist at all!" Mark records this story because it is often how we feel.

³⁹ And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!"

- **Rebuke is what you do to someone underneath you**. An employee who is late. Or, what you do with a child.
 - "No, daughter. You are **not allowed to talk back** to your mother."
 - "No, son. You are **not allowed to pee** in the sink." *A little insight into the Greear house there.*
- Jesus **stands up and rebukes the weather** like it's nothing more than a rowdy child.
 - **No incantations, no loud invectives** or chants, no *expecto patronums* or **magic wand**. He just stands up and calls it down.
- Here's something else: "**Be still**" in Greek is what they call a "**verb of continuing action**," which means he was saying, "**Be quiet ... and stay quiet**."
 - IOW, he **put the storm in time-out**. He was like, "You *sit down*. And I'll tell you when you can come out play again."
 - And the storm **slinks off** over into the corner.

And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. **Not only did the storm die down** immediately, the waves died down. Even if you could stop the wind immediately, it **would take a couple hours** for the sea itself to calm down. Jesus does it **all at once**.

Then, my favorite part of the story. He turns to the disciples and says, **40** He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? “Why were we afraid? We thought we were going to die... And then you rebuke this storm like a rowdy toddler and it listens. And you’re asking us why we are afraid?”

Jesus continues: **Have you still no faith?”**

Watch this: **41** And they were filled with *great fear* and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

- **Great fear.** When they were in the storm—sure they were going to die—they felt fear. Just plain old, regular, “think we’re going to die” fear. But after Jesus had rescued them, they felt *great* fear.
- In other words, **the rescue scared them more** than the storm.
- Seeing Jesus’ power over the storm was more terrifying than thinking they were going to die in the storm.

And they ask in amazement, “Who is this that even the wind and waves obey him?”

- **Jews believed that no one could command the weather** but God.
 - **Other prophets had possessed** the power to heal, but only God, they believed, could control the weather.
 - In fact, in **some of the rabbinic literature** of the time, like 2 Maccabees, someone claims to control the weather and they charge that prophet with blasphemy.
- Jesus here **did not even call on a higher power** to change the weather, like, “God, make this storm stop.” He did it himself, through his own power.
- Who is this—even the wind and sea obey him? It has to be God.

This is one of 3 stories Mark tells right in a row about amazing things that obey Jesus:

- You have the story of Jesus healing disease and raising the dead, which we looked at last week.

- The one after this in which Jesus commands demons and they obey him.
- And then this one where Jesus commands the weather.
- Mark’s point is: the demons, disease, death and the weather all obey Jesus. Why wouldn’t you?

3 important implications from this story

1. There is a good kind of fear

- **As I mentioned at the beginning**, a lot of people think the concept of a God you should fear is outdated. But that’s just foolish.
 - **How could you understand anything** about the power of Jesus and not feel fear?
 - **Whenever anyone glimpses the power of God** in the Bible, they are overcome with fear.
 - One of **my favorite examples of this is Revelation 1**, when the Apostle John sees Jesus for the first time after Jesus has ascended back to heaven.
 - **Keep in mind that John and Jesus had been BFFs** while Jesus was on earth. (John, in his Gospel, in fact, had rather confidently described himself as “the one that Jesus loved,” which I’ve always thought took a lot of nerve to put in print—I’m the one Jesus really liked.)
 - I am thinking about putting that as the **subtitle to my name** on any future books I write: J.D. Greear, the one that Jesus loves.
 - John had been so close to Jesus that during the last supper he leaned back on his chest during dinner (John 13:23)...I’ve got some close guy friends, but I don’t have many (and by that I mean ‘any’) I feel close enough to lean my head on their chest during dinner. John and Jesus were close.

- **What is their reunion going to look like?** Warm embrace? High-five? Slap on the back?
 - **I'll read it to you, in John's own words:** *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.* (Revelation 1:17)
 - That's **not a figure of speech**, btw. When he laid his eyes on the glorified Jesus, John literally thought he was going to die.
- I feel like we've lost almost all concept of this in our churches today. Jesus is our **homeboy**, our **pal**, the **Shepherd snuggling** with the lost sheep.
 - **We glibly sing these sentimental songs** about wanting to be in his presence.
 - **You realize that if Jesus** did what we are asking and just showed up on stage we would all, like John, think we are going to die.
 - *It would **not be good for church** attendance.*
- You see, **maybe the reason** that so many people are so casual and unmotivated in their obedience is because they have no fear of Jesus.
 - Friends, **he rebuked the weather** and it obeyed; he **commanded disease and death** and they yielded; he **spoke to demons** and they surrendered.
 - **Who are you** to disobey him?
- We have people listening to me who treat the commands of Jesus so casually.
 - "Well, I know what he wants but I'm not ready for it yet."
 - "I'll get serious about obeying him later."
 - "I prefer my sexual preferences to his will."
 - **DO YOU KNOW the ONE to whom you are speaking?** Who are you to defy the one who commands the wind and the waves?
- **More trembling, and less sentimental swaying**, might do our worship services some good.

2. Fear does not exclude love

- **Whenever we talk about the fear of God**, people object. They say "Wait. We're not supposed to fear God. He's the meek, tender, soft-brown-haired Savior that plays with children"
 - **Yes, but then you get pictures of Jesus like this** that make his tenderness that much more amazing.
- **I am reading C. S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*** to my two youngest kids right now, and a couple of days ago we came to the section where the 4 children first hear about Aslan, the lion who represents Jesus; that he is **coming back to Narnia and he wants to meet the children**.
 - **When the children first hear his name**, they feel this mixture, Lewis says, of **mystery and loveliness**.
 - And Susan, one of the kids, says, "**So, wait, who is this Aslan?**" Mr. Beaver says, "Why, he's the king! He's the great lion who is the Creator of Narnia, and its rightful ruler."
 - And Susan says, A lion? "I'd thought he was a man! Is he- quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion"..."Safe?" said Mr. Beaver ..."Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."
 - My daughter Ryah said, "So, wait, Dad. He is safe or he's not?"
 - I explain: "Well, he's not safe because he is a lion, but he's good, and you can trust him." "So, he's not safe." No, but he's good. "So he is safe." "No, he's not. He's a lion."
 - We **probably talked about this for 15 minutes**, and she ended up more confused than when we started.
- So I want to do a **better job with you**. Here's how I'd describe it: **They say that** at high altitudes storms, like Mt. Everest, storms can come on suddenly, in the space of a few seconds, the temperature can drop 30 or 40 more degrees, accompanied by

severe, gale force winds. Imagine that you were caught in such a storm. The wind effortlessly sweeps away your equipment. You hear the fierce howl of the winds, and feel the deep, penetrating cold. You know that death is just a few moments away. But just when you are about to give up hope, you notice a small opening in the side of the mountain, leading to a regressed cave. Inside that cave, another traveler has made a fire and is preparing a meal. As you sit by the fire, sheltered from the storm, you can look back out into the storm, marveling at its awesome power. **That storm may no longer a threat to you**, but you still feel a hushed sense of awe before its power.

That's the kind of fear the disciples feel before Jesus. Our experience of forgiveness is supposed to, in many ways, intensify our fear, not lessen it.

But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared. (Psalm 130:4)

- Forgiven—*so that we might fear?* But isn't the point of forgiveness to *take away* our fear? If we've really been forgiven, what is there to be afraid of?

When we see what Jesus had to go through to save us, it makes us realize the holiness and perfection of the God we have sinned against!

- The **bloody cross was the terrible** price for our sin. This was the price of disobedience!
 - It was what it was because it is exactly what I deserved.
 - It is the closest we'll come on earth to getting a glimpse of hell.
- But **in that sacrifice I also see I am safe** within God's love.
- And that moves me to WORSHIP.

True worship is a mixture of awe and intimacy. Awe at the size and power of God. Intimacy in realizing he has paid your full sin debt and brought you close!

- **One without the other is a deformed spirituality.**
- **Some of you have the fear but no intimacy,** and so you have no warmth or love in your relationship to God.
- **Some of you have intimacy without awe,** and so you are lazy or casual in your obedience; there are all kinds of areas of compromise, and you are uninspired in your worship.
- True worship is awe mixed with intimacy.

3. Those who fear Jesus need fear nothing else

- When you realize how powerful Jesus is, and that he is in the boat with you, you won't be afraid of anything else.
- In this story, after **Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves**, he also *rebukes* the disciples for being afraid.
 - **If he's rebuking them,** it means that they were doing something they shouldn't have been doing.
- **But, it seems to me that their fears are legitimate.** They thought they were going to die. That's the time for fear.
- Jesus says, **"Yes, but when I am in the boat with you, even that fear is irrational."**
 - **I feel like everyone in my family** has some kind of irrational fear.
 - Allie, my 10-year-old, used to be terrified of the movie *The Incredibles*. Until she was 6. I never understood. I remember her balling before a family night here because she heard they might show *Incredibles* here. I had to call up our kids' pastor...
 - Veronica: Spider. Of any size. "Huge." I'm thinking the thing is the size of the Frisbee. We've been running the microwave. Hazmat gear and my compound bow.
- **We know it's like to see other people with irrational fears.** With the presence of Jesus in your life, **all fears are irrational.**

Jesus was in their boat. Did they really think God would let them sink? No. So if Jesus was going to make it to the other side, and he was in their boat, that meant they would make it to the other side, too.

Because they didn't understand the power of Jesus over the storm, they feared the storm. But had they feared Jesus—and understood his power, they wouldn't not have been afraid of the storm!

I see it like this: **Jurassic Park:** In that dome, raptors surround them, they are sure they are going to die. But then, just as they despair, the T-Rex comes in, gobbles up all the raptors.

- And, you see there that the T-Rex is the real thing to be afraid of!
- But what if that T-Rex If the T-Rex is on my side? Then I don't need to be afraid of the raptors.
- *If the T-Rex is on my side, what can raptors do to me?*
- If the T-Rex is for me, who can be against me?
- Jesus is the **truer and better** T-Rex.
- Isn't this what Paul said? **Rom 8**
 - If God is for me...?
 - Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?
 - Who is there to condemn?

Worry in our lives comes from either a) forgetting the power of Jesus over the storm or b) doubting his commitment to us in the storm.

You see, **Mark tells this story because it depicts** how we often feel in life.

- We **sense these storms brewing** around us and it seems like Jesus is sleeping.
- Or maybe we **look around and we see the size of the waves** coming up over the sides of the boat.
 - **They seem overwhelming**—and the water is filling up our boat, you feel like you're being drowned by
 - bills,

- or concerns in your marriage,
- or problems with your kids,
- or issues at work.
- Too much you are trying to balance with school, schedules.
- And you ask, "How am I going to make it?" And you look at Jesus and say, "Do you even care? Aren't you supposed to take care of me? Even exist?"
- When you feel that way, **do 3 things:**
 - First, realize **your feelings of fear are natural.** The disciples, the future leaders of the church, felt those same fears.
 - But **don't listen to your feelings.** Put your eyes on Jesus, his power and his commitment.
 - Salvation doesn't come getting on top of your circumstances, but from believing God's promises.
 - **And third, when you feel like you're drowning,** it's okay to wake Jesus up. Jesus wasn't irritated about being woken up. He was only angered by their lack of faith. He wants you wake him up and say, "*I know that you care... so what are you going to do about this?*"

Maybe you ask, "Well, if Jesus loves us, why doesn't he keep me from the storm?"

- **That's a great question.**
- **Vs. 35,** I showed you, we see it was **his idea** to cross the Sea. **This wasn't a bad situation** they got themselves into that he was trying to fix. It was his idea.
 - **Why did he knowingly send them into the storm? Why does he knowingly send us into the storm?**
 - Maybe you've seen **other people celebrating** when God heals someone of cancer, but you wonder why they had cancer to begin with.

- Here's why: There is something more important than God keeping you from all storms, and that is God teaching you his faithfulness in the storm.

And see, there are **certain things about God you can only learn** in the storm.

- So God sends you into storms because **storms are his laboratory** in which he can teach you about himself.
 - Everybody wants to see miracles in their lives. Nobody wants to be in a position where they need one.
 - But until God puts you in a place where you need his sustaining power, you'll never experience it.
 - After long, meticulous study of the New Testament, I have come to this brilliant conclusion: **Every miracle in the Bible started with a problem.** Which is good news for those of you in there this weekend with problems: *you are a candidate for a miracle.* If you don't have problems, no miracles are available. Maybe you should come forward after this service and we can **lay our hands on you** that God would give you some problems so you could experience the miraculous power of God!
 - But Jesus can only show off his miraculous power when you have problems that need miracles.
- In a storm, Jesus will always do 1 of 2 things: he'll show off his power by delivering you from the storm, or he'll show off his power by his ability to keep you in the storm.
 - Sometimes he'll look at the storm and say, "Peace, be still."
 - Other times he'll look at you and say, "Peace, be still." I'm with you.
 - The peace that passes all understanding is not always, not even usually, *his calming OF the storm*, but his sustaining presence with you in the storm.

Worry in our lives (the storms of fear in our hearts) **comes from** forgetting either the power of Jesus over the storms or doubting his commitment to us.

Which leads me to the **last and most important insight into this story**, because it shows us why we never have to doubt his commitment to us. (**Because you say**, "Well maybe Jesus feels this way about some people, but how do I know he feels this way about me? I've not really lived paying that much attention to him and I don't think I'm one of his favored ones.")

Great question. This story is told in such a way that reminds us of another prophet who had an incident with the Sea: Jonah.

- Both **Jesus and Jonah were prophets** heading toward Gentiles. (The Sea of Galilee, btw, was the body of water that separated Jew territory from Gentile territory. When Jesus crossed it he was heading to the Gentiles, just like Jonah had been.)
- **Both Jesus and Jonah slept through the storm.**
- Both were woken up by scared sailors who asked, "Don't you care?"
- **When Mark says, "the wind ceased, and there was a great calm,"** that is the exact same phrase we see in Jonah when Jonah was thrown into the sea.

And here is where it gets really interesting. Jonah calmed the storm by plunging himself into it. Jesus calmed the storm, however, by speaking to it.

- **And that's because this was not the place for Jesus** to plunge himself into the Sea.
- You see, **the Sea, throughout the Bible**, represents God's wrath.
 - In Revelation, when evil empires arise, they do so *out of the sea*.
 - In the new heaven, Revelation says, there will be no more sea. That doesn't mean no beaches in heaven, but that there will be no more evil and wrath in heaven.

- At the cross, **Jesus would plunge himself into the Sea of God's wrath**, where he would be swallowed up by death for 3 days, just like Jonah was swallowed up the fish!
 - The wrath of God was terrible, like a raging sea! Greater than we could comprehend—it would have destroyed us forever.
 - He faced the terror and silenced it in love
- Seeing that—feeling the rightful terror of the wrath of God and seeing how Jesus saved us from it, leads me to worship.
 - The reason some of you struggle so much to have passion in worship is you've never seen the greatness of the salvation Jesus has purchased for you.
 - The reason your heart is cold is you've never felt the fear of the wrath of God.
 - Those who have felt the fear of the wrath of God rejoice in the tenderness of his love.
 - Isn't this what Jesus taught? A former prostitute came to Jesus and washed his feet with her tears and dried them with her hair, pouring out expensive perfume. The Pharisees objected—why would you let her do that? His response—“You don't understand. Those who are forgiven much, love much.”
 - If your heart is still cold toward God, it's because you've never felt the tenderness of his love and how great was the salvation he purchased for you at the cross.
 - **Spurgeon:** those who have felt the noose of God's wrath around their neck are the ones who love the Savior
 - THE MORE YOU EXPERIENCE FEAR, THE MORE YOU'LL LEARN TO LOVE. Ps. 130:4—we are forgiven to that we might *fear*, and when we forgiveness makes us fear we love Jesus much. Fear is the key to love.

And now here's the thing: If he cared about me *then*—if he didn't forsake me then, when the waves of God's wrath for me overcame him—surely he'll never forget me now, and he will continue to watch over every detail of our lives and keep us from being destroyed.

He has united himself to us in our boat, after all. And so now he won't let us sink, because he won't let himself sink.

- **2 Timothy 2:13:** “If we are faithless, he will remain *faithful... for he cannot deny himself!*”

“Indeed, he who **watches over you, Israel**, will neither slumber nor sleep.” (Ps. 121:4)

In fact, if you recall, when he went to the cross—the **real sea of God's wrath**, we were sleeping on him—Peter James and John, representing us, slept while Jesus stayed awake to face the wrath of God while we slept.

- He always has been, always is, and always will be wide awake to our storms and our suffering, always in perfect control.

HERE'S THE QUESTION: Who really got woken up in this story? Not Jesus. He knew what was going to happen from the very beginning. The disciples got woken up to his power and love.

The storm in your life is to wake you up to his power.

Prayer:

Have you woken up to the power and love of Jesus?

- 3 kinds of people:
 - those who need to receive Jesus.
 - You have all these reasons why you're mad at him, or not sure he's there.
 - The cross is his great, final demonstration of his love and commitment. That seals it. You can **be sure** if he did that, he'll see it through in your life if you let him.
 - You **have to receive** it!
 - Those who need to wake him up... he wants you to pray for miracles!

- Those who need to declare their trust in hi

