

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

31 Oct – 4 Sep 2011

## LESSON 5 GOD'S SERVANT CALMS

### INTRODUCTION:

What do celebrities do to get away from their followers? How are their bodyguards affected?

### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION:

*Note: The many valleys around the Sea of Galilee created a venturi effect that accentuated wind currents, causing violent storms to appear suddenly. Since some of the disciples were experienced fishermen, these storms were nothing new to them. Jesus was becoming so popular that he sometimes had to distance himself from the crowds by speaking from a boat (4:1). After Jesus demonstrated ministry He often gave special explanations and time to the chosen disciples. Notice that Jesus responds to their needs, even when their faith is imperfect. If they had not known Him, they could not have even asked for His help. As they learned more about Him through His words and works, their faith grew. "The act of hearing, of listening, is inextricably entwined with action. For instance, a mother may tell her child to clean her room. The child may hear. However, if an hour later her room is still not clean, the mother will wonder whether her daughter really heard her. And she will not be happy with the response, "Yes, I heard you." She will not question the daughter's hearing ability, but her obedience."<sup>1</sup> "In the Old Testament, faith meant to rest, trust, and hope in God. Faith was an unswerving trust in God to save his people from their enemies. Faith also implied that what God had promised would come to pass. In the New Testament, faith is not divided from the person of Christ. This is another place where Christianity departs from other religions. Other religions encourage their believers to have faith in God. Only Jesus Christ says, have faith in me."<sup>2</sup>*

### Read Mark 4:35-41

1. Whose suggestion was it that they go to the other side? (35)
2. How does Mark describe the intensity of the storm? (37)
3. Why is Jesus sleeping so soundly? How did this reflect his *humanity*? (38)
4. How would you have felt if you saw Jesus sleeping through all of this?
5. Why did they turn to Jesus to solve their problem? (Wasn't He a carpenter?) What did they expect Him to do? Psalm 107:23-32; Ps 65:5-7
6. How did Jesus deal with the situation? How did this reflect his *divinity*? (39) Ps 10:29-30; 89:9
7. Was Jesus more concerned about their fear of the storm or their lack of faith? Explain?
8. Is God really in control or does he need our help for changes to take effect?
9. Why does this incident make such a big impression on the disciples?
10. What do you do when storms come up in your life?

### APPLICATION

- It's difficult to trust God when we are face to face with a storm that threatens to kill us. How would Jesus like you to react to your storm? What storm can He calm?
- How can you cultivate a time of listening (and obeying) God?

*Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He caused the storm to be still, so that the waves of the sea were hushed. Ps 107:28, 29*

*"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10a*

*"In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me." Jonah 2:2*

<sup>1 2</sup> Cooper, R. L. (2000). *Vol. 2: Mark*. Holman New Testament Commentary; Holman Reference (73, 77). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.