

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?

- a. **Times are hard** – financial, physical, relational difficulties, etc.
(e.g., Psalm 31:10 “My life is spent with sorrow, my strength fails”)
- b. **Our lives are Imperfect/Unlovable** – personal failures, doubts
(e.g., the disciples: Mark 4:40-41)
- c. **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?”)
- d. **God feels distant** (e.g., Psalm 10:1- “Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?”)

IV. The Assurance of God’s Unfailing Care

- a. **Specific Events in History** confirm God’s unshakeable love
 - i. Exodus – see Deuteronomy 7:7-8; ii. Incarnation – see Philippians 2:6-8
 - iii. Crucifixion – see 1 John 4:9-10
- b. **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.
- c. **Who and Where Jesus is:** The Lord of Creation is in our boat too!

Mark 4:35-41

35 On 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.*”

36 And leaving the crowd behind,

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

Other boats were with him.

37 A great windstorm arose,

and the waves beat into the boat,

so that the boat was already being swamped.

38 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?*”

39 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.

40 He said to them,

“*Why are you afraid?*

Have you still no faith?”

41 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?*”