

MAIN POINT

Jesus is God over all things and deserves our complete worship.

INTRODUCTION

Where were you raised and how often did you experience violent storms? What kind of storm was most common?

When you were a child, how were you most likely to react during a bad storm? What about now?

We've all experienced periods of rain—both literally and metaphorically. But it makes a big difference whether that rain comes gently or as part of a violent storm. Jesus and the disciples experienced a number of storms, and in our passage today, we read about how Jesus demonstrated His authority over such storms. Such a demonstration of power helps us see that there is nothing Jesus can't control in our lives.

DISCUSSION

> READ MATTHEW 8:23-27.

If you had been one of the disciples facing the storm in the boat, what would you have done?

Why was Jesus sleeping through such a storm in the first place?

Had you been in the boat with Jesus, what would your attitude have been toward the fact that He was sleeping while you fought this storm?

How do you perceive the tone in Jesus's voice when He said, "Why are you afraid?" Do you read this as angry, disappointed, compassionate or merely inquisitive?

How might your perspective shift depending on how you think Jesus views you in the midst of storms?

What was the difference in the fear of the disciples during the storm and their fear at the end of the story? At the end of the story, do you think that the disciples were more afraid of the storm or of Jesus? Why?

When have you reacted with fear to something God has done? Is fearing God in this manner appropriate or inappropriate for a Christian? Why?

Read Mark 4:38. When have you felt like the disciples, wondering whether or not Jesus cared about the plight that was overtaking you? What happened? What did you learn through that experience?

When Christians hit stormy times in life, why does God want us to turn to Him rather than trying to make it through on our own? What does God want us to do on our own, and what does He want us to rely on Him for?

APPLICATION

What stress or worry do you have right now that you need Jesus to calm? If Jesus were to say to you, "Peace! Be still" (Mark 4:39), what would that change?