

A dramatic silhouette of a man on a cross against a bright, hazy sun. The man is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The sun is a large, glowing orb in the upper center, creating a strong backlight effect. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by golden yellows and oranges.

THE BOOK OF
MARK



BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER

MARK 4:31-45

- What is troubling you today at the core of your being?
- What storm are you facing today, seemingly alone?
- What is the one thing in your life right now that seems too big even for God?
- Do you feel as though you are about to drown in some demonic dilemma?
- Is there some area of your life where you feel as though there is no bridge over the troubled water, or no lifeboat to get you to the other side?

A silhouette of a person on a cross is visible on the left side of the image, set against a warm, golden sunset background. The person's head is bowed, and their arms are outstretched on the cross. The overall mood is contemplative and somber.

FACING THE STORM

- This is one of two times in the gospels Jesus is out on the sea and a storm comes calling for the disciples, **Matt. 14** is the other. Truly, what a day it had been!
- Jesus had faced and healed a fierce demoniac (**Matt. 12:22**); He had dealt with the opposition of both His friends (**Mark 3:20,21**) and His foes (**Matt. 12:24**).
- Every believer will face storms—we are not exempt from sickness, poverty, natural disasters, bereavement, death, and various ills of life.
- What He promises is not His protection *from* the storm but His presence *in* the storm.



THE CATABOLIC STORM— HERMON TO GALILEE

- Sudden and violent storms agitate the waters sweeping down the ravines and gorges converging at the north end of the lake at 683 feet below sea level.
- A vast naked plateau of the *Jaulan* and the *Hauran*, the *Horns of Hatin* in the west and Hula valley all the way to *Mount Hermon* in the north at nearly 10,000 feet above sea level—not even thirty miles away.
- In frighteningly quick time, the air cools in the mountains and over the water, and winds of hurricane force rush down the hillside to turn the lake into a maelstrom.
- Record waves of 15 feet have occurred in the last 30 years and the boats were under 25 feet in length . . . can you spell D-I-S-A-S-T-E-R?



HOW JESUS REACTS TO OUR STORMS

- The disciples found a spot for Jesus in the stern where He could rest.
- The motion of the waves and the lullaby of the evening breeze rocked Jesus gently off to sleep.
- From Heaven's perspective, all was well. The Lord of glory slept; He had a plan even though the disciples thought the end of the world had come. The storm held no terror for Him.
- Behind the tempest's awful voice was the voice of the Evil One, but not even that voice, with all of its wind-whipped hatred and malice, could disturb Him.
- He was greater than either Satan or the storm.
- So, He slept. *I will show you My power by doing nothing . . . yet.*



JESUS “REBUKES” THE STORM v. 39

Behind the waves was the wind, but behind the wind was the Evil One himself, the “*prince of the power of the air*” (**Eph. 2:2**); hence, the rebuke. Having rebuked the wind, the Lord spoke to the waves.

- “*Peace,*” He said, “*be still.*” That was all. The Creator had spoken to His creation; it had no choice but to obey.
- ***But the disciples saw it very differently. Mark 4:40***
- Faith and fear essentially cancel each other out.

This passage illustrates the Lord’s absolute sovereignty over every circumstance.

A silhouette of Jesus on the cross is visible on the left side of the image, set against a warm, golden sunset background. The cross is partially visible, and the figure of Jesus is in profile, looking down.

WHERE DO OUR STORMS COME FROM?

- While not every storm is a direct result of the Devil coming after you personally—some storms are of your own making through sin—each one is centered in the world, the flesh, and the Devil’s ways of working in all our lives.
- Essentially, the enemy is attempting to scare you, to get you to jump ship, dive off the bridge, run for the hills—abandon Jesus, who from your perspective is sleeping while you are in trouble!
- But Jesus was not asleep; He was merely unimpressed by the tiny little storm that the Devil had conjured up!



JESUS IS UP TO THE CHALLENGE

Rebuke: It is a command of mastery, superior force, authority, non-contestability.

- It is frequently employed in the Lord's dealings with evil spirits, a fact that adds credence to the idea that Satan was the one who stirred up this particular storm—much like Job's whirlwind.
- All it took was a word from the Lord and Satan was stopped in his tracks.
- As for the disciples, they were overcome with awe.
- Jesus is always on time, never late—and He is the master of every storm regardless of its cause.

It's as if Jesus was saying, What storm was that, Jeff? Did you forget? "I Am" is with you; "I Am" your bridge over troubled water; "I Am" your lifeboat in the storm; "I Am" will calm the storm and see you to the other side!