

Into the Life of Jesus

a study in the gospel of Mark
study #9

Intro – Where have we been?

Recall (perhaps re-read) the verses in Mark 2:23 – 3:6

- In the light of our recent study, teaching and conversations, what is your heart's primary response to the invitation to Sabbath? Hunger, dread, hope, fatigue, nothing? (and why?)
- In what way do you see your own need for Sabbath renewal? (think: heart, soul, mind, strength)

This week: Digging into Mark 4:35-41

Read these verses aloud as a group (perhaps have two people read it in different English versions)

- Make a list of the action words (verbs).
- Make a list of the questions asked in this short passage.
- Make a list of the imperative statements (commands, often indicated by exclamation marks).

Some Questions:

- When (time of day) is the action taking place? Is there something significant about nighttime and fear?
- In this brief story, who is anxious and who is asleep? Why?
- Would you describe Jesus' boat-mates' reactions to a clearly dangerous crisis as knee-jerk OR understandable OR reasonable OR faithless OR angrily feeling abandoned by Jesus?
- Have you ever experienced such a life-threatening crisis (eg. difficult childbirth, traffic accident, feeling lost in a strange place) and what was your own Godward response?

Digging Deeper:

- What do you make of a Jesus who blissfully sleeps while his friends encounter calamity?
- Imagining yourself in Mark's story, do you consider yourself to be more like Jesus in his serenity or more like his alarmed friends? (Be honest ☺)
- What do YOU do when you're legitimately terrified by events spinning out of your control?
- What might it mean for you to come closer to an oddly disconcerting but loving Jesus? After all, he seems to 'zig' where we might expect him to 'zag'. Am I still willing to follow him or is there a threshold over which I will not cross? If so, can you name that threshold of trust?
- Do you imagine that there are 'categories of life' into which Jesus has a legitimate voice of rescue and other categories where you think that he can't really help in the real world? (be honest!) Let's name them, and consider what Jesus might say about this...
- What are the 'storms' over which you've seen Jesus unexpectedly bring you to stability and wholeness and relationship?

PRAY: for one another, especially that we could hear—really HEAR—and respond to the call of God with eagerness and trust.