

# Making Space for God

## Lessons From Mark #7—The Storm

### Opening Prayer

*O Lord my God, to you and your service I devote myself, body, soul, and spirit. Fill my memory with the record of your mighty works; enlighten my understanding with the light of your Holy Spirit; and make all the desires of my heart and will center in what you would have me do. Make me an instrument of your salvation for the people entrusted to my care, and let me by my life and speaking set fourth your true and living Word. Be always with me in carrying out the duties of my salvation; in praises heighten my love and gratitude; in speaking of you give me readiness of thought and expression; and grant that, by the clearness and brightness of your holy Word, all the world may be drawn to your blessed kingdom. All this I ask for the sake of your Son my savior Jesus Christ. Amen*



From the Divine Hours- Prayers for Wintertime, page 160

### Arrival

Take some times to settle yourself. Invite the Lord to guide and direct your thoughts for the day. Think back over where you have been in the last four weeks. What burdens, emotions, and concerns do you carry? What are you thankful for? When have you experienced the Lord's presence? Journal your thoughts and offer these to the Lord.

### Scripture—Mark 4:35-41

<sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."<sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.<sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.<sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

<sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

<sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"<sup>1</sup>

### Psalm 107:23-32

<sup>23</sup> Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters.

<sup>24</sup> They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep.

<sup>25</sup> For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.

<sup>26</sup> They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away.

<sup>27</sup> They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end.

<sup>28</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress.

<sup>29</sup> He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.

<sup>1</sup> **New International Version (NIV)** Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.](http://www.bible.com)® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

<sup>30</sup> They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.

<sup>31</sup> Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

<sup>32</sup> Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.<sup>1</sup>

## Reading for Reflection

We who serve an entirely indoor God have lost a great part of our faith. We must break through the cold hard walls of our institutionalized worship and reach for the soft, warm reality of God that is found in out of doors. It is impossible to imprison God within the walls of church and yet claim that Christianity brings light, growth, and life. We need to open the windows of our soul to admit God's creative energy... A supersized God makes us aware of our smallness and our humble place in the universe. But in order to see him, we must give up our addiction to electronic media. Once we have seen the God of Yosemite and the Everglades, we will be better able to celebrate his awesome reality and our hearts will overflow with praise. Cognizant of God's majesty, we will subsequently and spontaneously confess our need.

*Calvin Miller in The Path of Celtic Prayer, page 39-40*

We all would like an easy and prosperous life, but such an existence rarely motivates us to intensify our search for God. When everything is going smoothly, God seems redundant: an abstract and distant deity to whom we give intellectual assent and conventional worship. When we ride the crest of the wave of self-approval, it is not hard to forget God. We become practical atheists. Though we may speak of our success in terms of divine blessing, our feeling of well being is in no way connected with faith, hope, and charity. It is the result of lack of difficulties, and a certain confluence of comfort, pleasure, esteem, fulfillment, and above all, the love of others.

*Michael Casey in Living in the Truth, page 59*

As definite as my plan for life is, it all seems surrounded by the indefinite, like a boat in a fog. I can't look back from where I am now and feel that I have been very much in charge of my life. Certainly I have lived on the edge of the Port Williams community. But I feel that I have lived on the edge even of my own life. I have made plans enough, but I see now that I have never lived by plan any more than if I had been a bystander watching me live my life. I don't feel that I ever have been quite sure what was going on. Nearly everything that has happened to me has happened by surprise. All the important things have happened by surprise. And whatever has been happening usually has already happened before I have had time to expect it. The world doesn't stop because you are in love or in mourning or in need of time to think. And so when I have thought I was in my story or in charge of it, I really have been only on the edge of it, carried along. Is this because we are in an eternal story that is happening partly in time?

*Wendell Berry in Jayber Crow Page 322*

Inspiration in my experience does not so much float out of the clear sky as get washed up on the beach in a storm.

*Graham Kendrick in Art and Soul page 163*

## Benediction

Lord, you know what is best for me. Give me what you will and when you will and as much as you will. Do with me what you think best and as it please you and brings you the most honor. Place me where you will and use me according to your wisdom. I am in your hand as your servant ready to do all that you command. I want to live not for myself, but for you. I want to serve you fittingly and perfectly.

*Thomas a Kempis*