

## It's Faith that Saves (Job 38:1-11; Mark 4:35-end)

- **Jesus' Ministry and Gospel Selection**
  - Jesus' ministry, if condensed, spans less than two months out of 2-3 years.
  - Evangelists were selective in the stories included in the Gospels.
  - Each story works on multiple levels: obvious, less obvious, and culturally influenced meanings.
- **The Story of Jesus Calming the Storm**
  - Jesus and disciples travel across the Sea of Galilee.
  - Jesus, exhausted, sleeps through a violent storm.
  - Disciples, experienced fishermen, are terrified and wake Jesus, reproaching him.
  - Jesus calms the storm and rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith.
- **Deeper Meanings and Symbolism**
  - The sea symbolises chaos and danger, and the Israelites were not a sea-going people.
  - Jesus' calmness during the storm signifies his control over chaos.
  - Waking Jesus parallels the Psalms where the Psalmist calls on God to save his people.
  - The story includes three rebukes: from disciples to Jesus, Jesus to the storm, and Jesus to the disciples.
- **Comparison with Job 38:1-11**
  - Job's complaints and God's response highlight human limitations and divine power.
  - The passage from Job underscores God's authority over creation.
- **Jesus' Identity and Authority**
  - The story confirms Jesus as the Son of God, commanding creation.
  - Reference to St. John's Gospel: Jesus was with God at the beginning and all things were made through him.
  - Jesus reassures his disciples that nothing is beyond his power and desire to save.
- **Lessons on Faith**
  - Faith in God's power is crucial, especially during challenging times.
  - We can be honest and blunt with God about our fears and doubts.
  - Faith can achieve seemingly impossible things.
  - Another lake story: Peter walking on water and sinking demonstrates the need for persistent faith.
- **Application to Modern Life**
  - Continuous faith in God is essential even when the world feels dangerous and we feel powerless.
  - The terrified disciples who later became the foundation of the church remind us that our faith journey can transform us into strong pillars of faith.

## Questions:

1. The sermon highlights that the sea was seen as a symbol of chaos and danger in the ancient Israelite context. How does Jesus' ability to calm the storm in Mark 4 reflect his authority over chaos and disorder? What other instances in the Bible illustrate God's control over chaos?
2. Jesus rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith during the storm. How do you interpret the relationship between faith and fear in this passage? Can you think of a time in your life when your faith was tested by fear or uncertainty? How did you respond?
3. The sermon points out that there are three rebukes in the story: the disciples rebuke Jesus, Jesus rebukes the storm, and then Jesus rebukes the disciples. What do these rebukes reveal about the nature of the disciples' relationship with Jesus? How does this reflect our own relationship with God?
4. Reflecting on the passage from Job 38:1-11, how does God's response to Job's complaints compare to Jesus' response to the disciples' panic? What does this say about human limitations and the divine power and wisdom of God?
5. The sermon concludes with a message about holding on to faith in difficult times and recognizing that God saves. How can we apply this lesson to our current personal and global challenges? What practical steps can we take to strengthen our faith in God's power and presence in our lives?