

It's Impossible

Part 3: Trust the Impossible

Mark 4:35-41

INTRO

Biggest fears growing up... thunderstorms.

- Remember the feeling of my heart sinking and terror when I first heard the rumble of thunder... even seeing the dark clouds.
- Couldn't explain it... they just terrified me...
- What made it worse was knowing I had absolutely no control over it... nothing I could do to make it stop.
- I love them now... but I've noticed that same feeling in other ways as an adult... and maybe you have too

WE: When I was political- my candidate lost... the gov in control made decisions I disagreed with...

That familiar feeling of fear of no control and no power to do anything about it... obsessively listen/watch/read news to have a sense of control... argue with people to at least try to change them.

Some of you living through unimaginable impossibilities... Money / Sickness / Relationships or lack thereof (marriage, kids, parents, friends), will your heart ever heal from the loss?

Seems impossible that anything can be done... after all, if we are truly honest about it, we really have no control and no power.

Our lack of control and power creates a fear that seems impossible to conquer.

And if you believe there's a God... these impossible situations often make it seem like God just doesn't care... he could stop it if he wanted to and he doesn't so he doesn't care.

Life's cares and difficulties make it difficult to believe God cares.

Might be why you gave up on Xianity/God- Went through something impossibly hard and questioned God and couldn't find any good answers... fair... nothing new...

Psalm 13:1-4

But God became a man... ancient Jewish rabbi, Jesus, to answer these questions...

The impossible things he said and then backed up by the impossible things he did showed us who God really is.

Jesus did the impossible to show we can trust him with our impossible difficulties.

Let me show you...

GOD: Mark 4:35-41 Set scene... teaching, crowds, take a break... so they thought.

V. 35-36 (other boats followed... eyewitnesses of what was about to happen)

V. 37 Peter, James, John- Experienced fishermen knew what they were doing... serious storm

V. 38a.

Isn't that exactly what it feels like when the waves start crashing on our lives?

Might start with a small wind... oh we got this... waves get bigger... uh we better start doing some rowing here, waves start crashing over the boat, we start grabbing any "bucket" we can find to help bail us out... but it's not enough...

When faced with difficulties, our fear convinces us WE have to do something.

- Often just makes matters worse
- Studies show that fear actually hinders our thinking... lowers IQ
- Not the right time to make decisions or choices!

And what is Jesus doing while we're working so hard? Taking a nap.

Ever feel like your life is sinking and all Jesus is doing is taking a nap...

And so we scream & freak out...

V. 38b

Don't you even care that I'm dying here!

You've left me here all alone... everything is falling apart... I'm working so hard... why aren't you doing anything?

We often mistake Jesus' calm quietness for indifference.

"Not only that... you're the one who got us into this mess in the first place" (who's idea was the boat ride?)

What do you think they expected him to do?

Apologize? Join their panic? Help bail or row? Maybe pray?

They would never have guessed what he was actually about to do.

Nobody really believed Jesus was God until they saw him die and then come alive again. (in good company)

You might know how this story ends but they didn't

Just like we have no idea what Jesus is planning to do for our story... our own personal "storms"

V. 39

Impossible. I know. But what if Jesus really is God... I think he proved he was...

And you may not completely believe this right now. And that's ok. But ask yourself, is it POSSIBLE he actually DID die and come back to life, that he was actually God?

Then calming the storm is not impossible is it... the wind and waves simply recognized the voice that created them and listened.

Suddenly (Mark likes the action words), a great calm.

Jesus wasn't indifferent or unaware... he was working in his own timing...

Like a wizard... "he is never late, nor is he early, he arrives precisely when he means to"

Jesus does the impossible in his own time and manner.

- Why you might not have seen what he did... It wasn't the way YOU wanted.

He could have calmed the storm when the first cloud appeared, could have prevented it in the first place (they would never have had to go through it), he could split the water and let them walk out if he wanted, he could have just got out and walked on the water and pulled the boat to safety...

but he had his own timing and manner in his own perfect plan.

So... Put yourself in the boat... what just happened and who is this?

Jesus breaks the silence and asks the obvious question... well obvious to him

V. 40

"Why afraid?"

"Well I ah, err, the waves they..."

Jesus looking at them puzzled and looking around at the water and sky...

V. 41a

Terrified... wouldn't you be?

V. 41b... whole point right here...

Why were they afraid?...

We see the answer in the two questions they asked...

- Don't you care?
- Who is this man?

Our questions often reveal the foundation of our trust.

- Why is this happening?
- Why doesn't God do something about it?
- What am I going to do?
- How will this ever improve for me?
- What if ___ happens to me?

Not trusting Jesus.

They didn't know who was actually in the boat with them.

They didn't know the reality of Jesus' identity

They didn't know the depth of his care.

Why are you afraid?

“B/c you don't truly know who I am and how much I care”

YOU: That's my question to you (and me)...

Why are you afraid?

What impossible storm is blowing in your face right now? Why are you afraid?

Why are you afraid...

Do you know who is with you?

The one who died and rose again, the one who calmed this storm, the one who healed diseases and raised the dead, the one who has all authority in heaven and earth...

He died for you, did the impossible for you, why would he let go of you now?

Why are you afraid?

Storm didn't catch him off guard... trip was his idea

Political turmoil / pandemic / racial tensions/ economic troubles/ even online school hasn't caught him off guard

- The fear and anger on both sides of the political spectrum over the last few years (and especially now) show that many who say they trust Jesus... have forgotten who they say they follow...
- Jesus is in the boat and he's not napping, he's in control.

The sickness, hardships, and separation haven't caught him napping... he is in it with you... and if he is in it you can stop being afraid of it.

Do you know him?- Opportunity to accept.

THEN...

Why are you afraid?

Do you know Jesus cares about you?

- Created you on purpose. Died to bring you back to him. Not mad at you. Loves and likes you. He cares...

Matthew 6:26-27 aren't you /...

WE: Might sound cutesy but it's one of the largest truths in the universe...

When Jesus is here, there's nothing to fear.

Imagine... What would be possible for you if you knew...

- You were accepted, loved, liked, enjoyed by the one who matters most
- That you were held securely in the hands of the one who can speak and control all of nature
- That your life had an infinite purpose and you were empowered by God himself.
- What would there be to fear?

Trusting Jesus makes peace and confidence possible in the midst of the impossible.

Psalm 13:1-6

QUESTIONS (Aaron in blue)

1. What stood out to you in this week's episode and/or passage (Mark 4:35-41)? What challenges, bothers, or encourages you?
2. Read John 1:1-5 and 16:33. How do you think these passages relate to this week's passage and message? What does that mean for you?
3. What do you need/want from Jesus and what "impossibility" do you need to trust him with? How can your group pray for you in this during the week?