

May 11, 2025

Master of the Waters

Members of Christ Community Church in Paducah, Kentucky, say divine intervention saved them. On April 2, 2025, meteorologists forecasted heavy rains, flooding, and tornadoes. Usually, members of the church would have been present for their Wednesday night prayer service, but Pastor Tim Turner decided to cancel the service, something he had never done before in his 35 years of pastoring. “We canceled that night because of the storms.” The aftermath of the storm proved that Turner made a wise decision: “If you look at all these blocks, it was a block wall, 18 feet high, and it all fell, and the roof caved in, too, and I doubt there would've been any survivors. So we're not mourning today, we're praising God.”¹

We discover in the Gospel of Mark that Jesus intervened in another storm. Jesus told the disciples to join him on a boat and cross the Galilean lake. But as they crossed, a great storm came along. The wind and the waves battered the boat. The disciples were scared, but Jesus was asleep on a cushion. They woke him up and said, “Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?” (Mark 4:38). Jesus didn't speak to them but rather to the wind, saying, “Silence! Be still!” (verse 39). The wind settled down.

Mark used the same word to describe the winds. In many translations, verse 37 refers to a “great storm.” In most translations, the disciples were “greatly amazed.” Taken together, we can see that there was (1) a great storm, (2) a great calm, and (3) great amazement. This was almost certainly intentional wording by Mark. He was pointing to Jesus' power to bring calm as being at least as great as the storm. Great storm, great calm, and great awe—this is what happens when Jesus takes control of the natural world.

Just as the storms we face can be great and scary, the peace Jesus gives is great and calming. Jesus is more powerful than the storm. When we see Jesus' power to bring peace and order, we are like the disciples who were greatly amazed. Like the disciples, we have chosen to get in the boat with Jesus. Though the storm is raging and the wind is howling, he is not afraid. The disciples asked Jesus if he cared that they were going to drown. They assumed they were going to drown and that he must not have cared about them to let it happen.

The disciples could not have been more wrong. It wasn't that Jesus didn't care. He did. It was that he knew they would not perish. He knew that creation answered to him. He knew that the disciples would be safe. If we have seen Jesus work his power over the storms in our lives, we too should be greatly amazed. Let us not take his power for granted. He is under no obligation to save us from the storm except that he loves us so much.

In the storms we face, let us not only look to Jesus for help, but let us also trust that he will help us. And when he does, we shall not fail to realize how amazing he is!

1. How does Jesus' power over creation help your faith?
2. What storms has God stilled for you? How did you know it was divine intervention?
3. How can you be more aware and thankful for how Jesus brings calm into the chaotic moments of life?

¹From "Entire Kentucky Church Survives as Tornado Destroys Building: 'God Is so Good to Us,'" by Wendy Griffith, The Christian Broadcasting Network (April 10, 2025).

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