

**Text:** Mark 4:35-41

**Date:** June 24, 2018

**Focus:** Jesus is our all-powerful, all-loving King in whom we can trust.

**Function:** As Christians, we trust like Jesus and trust in Jesus.

*In Jesus Name, Amen.*

When you don't have it – you dream of it. When you get a taste of it – you long for more. The more of it you have – the more it is abused. Power.

There is someone who lives in my house that makes me feel very powerful. It's not my wife. Her name is Alexa. She lives inside these three speakers we have strategically placed in our kitchen, bedroom, and living room. We got one as a gift a few years ago, and didn't think we would ever use it, but now we're hooked. Alexa is virtual assistant connected to a master computer somewhere, but her purpose is just to do my bidding.

If I want Alexa to tell me the weather – she tells me. If I want her to give me directions or tell me a story or make me laugh – she does. When I want to listen to music, all I have to say is “Alexa, play me some bluegrass” and I start to hear banjo strings! If I want to buy things on Amazon or send a message to a friend – she carefully listens and then obeys my commands.

Alexa, makes me feel powerful. She makes me feel like a King. Or, at least she makes me feel like Kings and Queens used to feel. Royalty isn't like it used to be. The only power that Kings and Queens and Princes and Princes have today is that they are able to get us to wake up at 5am to watch their weddings or maybe they have the power to get us to buy magazines with pictures of their babies. Kings and Queens just don't have the power that they used to.

Except for one. One King continues to hold all the cards. One King is still in control over EVERYTHING, who has ALL the power. And that King, is the one we read about in Mark chapter 4. Our King Jesus.

In Mark 4:35-41 we read that after Jesus had finished teaching and sharing His parables, He invites His disciples into the boat He's been teaching from and together they set out across the water as the evening rolled in.

Somewhere along the way, as they drifted along, while Jesus sat in the captain's spot, a storm rolled in. A storm so big that it got these seasoned fisherman, these experienced boaters shaking in their boots. Mark describes the storm as a serious squall that threatens to swamp the boat. All of their lives were on the line. The wind is blowing. The waves are raging. The rain is falling. And King Jesus, well, He's asleep at the wheel.

Meanwhile, the disciples are freaking out! They are staring death in the face, and Jesus is SLEEPING. He's been caught with His eyes closed. The one person who can do something has his head on a cushion, spending time in dream-land.

And the disciples aren't too happy about this! They rush to wake Him up. And after scratching the crust from His eyes, Jesus says, "Quiet, be still!" and just like that the wind and the waves stop. In an instant complete chaos is turned into complete calmness. The raging waters have become a peaceful pond.

That's power. That's the kind of powerful King you and I have. The one who can calm the storms of life with just a few words. For King Jesus, nature and creation are His Amazon Alexa, His Google or Siri – they are there to do His bidding and follow His commands.

I think that most of us need this story. We need to be reminded of just how powerful Jesus is. Some of our favorite images of Jesus are from when He tenderly welcomed in the little children or when He lovingly holds the wandering sheep on His shoulder. And we need those images. But, today we are reminded of the vastness of His power. And we're reminded that if Jesus can calm the raging seas in the blink of an eye, then He can certainly calm any of the storms of our lives.

I think that we need this story because a lot of the time, God doesn't look very powerful to us. As the cancer comes and slowly spreads, as we struggle to find a job – sometimes God doesn't appear to be very powerful. While our kids won't talk to us or while the pain of a divorce rips us apart – we want to know where this powerful King is. God doesn't always look powerful.

He certainly didn't as He hung on the cross. As he hung there bleeding, heaving, crying, dying – He looked pretty weak. But even there, God was powerfully conquering your sin. He was proving that He was in control of your forgiveness. He was smashing down Satan and beating back death.

Here's one thing that we need to remember: God can see through to the end of the story. God sees all of these moments of seeming weakness (like the cross) in light of the ending. And brothers and sisters, God has read YOUR story through. In fact, He wrote your story – all of it, from beginning to end. And while we can only see what is right in front of us, all we can see is the job loss or cancer or family drama or relationship pain, God is able to see how He is going to powerfully work all of these storms in our lives together for good. And I say that NOT to dismiss your problems – they are real, and sometimes they are really big, but to remind you that God is more powerful than any of your problems – any of your storms. God truly is ALL-POWERFUL.

Now, again, that's hard to wrap our minds around sometimes. Because we live in a republic, a democracy. In a land with no all-powerful people. Our power is spread out between judges and legislators and presidents. Ideally, it's in the hands of all the people. And, that's a good thing, generally speaking. It's certainly for a good reason! Because our forefathers saw how scary it could be when all the power was concentrated in the hands of a single monarch or king, right. They saw how easy it was for that kind of power to get abused. Our forefathers saw how SCARY it was to have all the power concentrated like that. And so our system of democracy protects us in a lot of ways from all-powerful tyrants. Our democracy is probably as close to as good as it gets in terms of governmental systems.

But, I wonder, what if we lived in a land with an all-powerful king or queen who also happened to love us – who had our best interests at heart. I think that would be a good way to live. I think that might be the best of places to live – in a land with an all-powerful monarch – who had all the power in the world to get things done, but who ALSO had our best interests at heart. Who loved us. That, to me, is the best way of doing government.

And, that's what we have in our King Jesus. He is solidly in control. He is all-powerful. His power is unrestrained. Uncontained. Unlimited. But, He is also all-loving.

In our reading for today, as the storm is raging the disciples ask an interesting question. While the wind is blowing and waves are crashing they DON'T ask if Jesus CAN do something about the storm. They've been around Him long enough and seen enough healings and enough demons cast out to know that He CAN. So they don't ask, "Can't you do something, Jesus" Instead they ask, "Jesus, don't you CARE" "Don't you love us?!" And the answer, we see, is yes. Jesus does love them. And He is able to do something about it. Jesus displays His all-powerful love.

And it's that all-powerful love that leads us to do two things as His children. With an all-powerful King like Jesus we are led to trust like Jesus. You see, as that storm raged Jesus trusted that His Father would take care of things. In fact, Jesus trusts so much, He has so much peace and rest, that He is able to fall asleep! While everyone else is freaking out, Jesus is able to rest easy in His Father's care. And I think we are called to trust like that. When the storms of our life rage, we can trust like Jesus. We can rest easy. We can have peace. We can go to bed at night trusting in our all-powerful God.

So, our story reminds us that we can trust like Jesus trusted, but also that we can trust in Jesus. He is worthy of placing our trust in. He can handle our problems. He can calm our storms. We can trust in Him. He is able. AND He loves.

Jesus is our All-powerful, all-loving God. He is our King.

In Jesus Name, Amen.