

Fruitful and Free: Abiding with Faith

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus promises freedom and fruitfulness to those who abide in Him and His words. To pursue what Jesus offers, during our 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting, we are encouraging all of us to engage three core spiritual disciplines of abiding: Scripture, prayer, and fasting. When these three practices of abiding are pursued in healthy, God-centered ways, they can help lead us to experience the fruitfulness and freedom that Jesus offers. One aspect of pursuing them in this way, requires that we pursue them in faith. Today, we are going to consider an account in Mark 4:35–41 that highlights the importance of faith as we seek Jesus.

Opening Discussion: What is one of the worst storms you've experienced?

Read Mark 4:35-31

1. How is Jesus' revealed in this incident? What do we learn about him?
2. What do we learn about the disciples?
3. In light of the things that the disciples had already seen Jesus do (e.g. , why do you think they were so slow to turn to Jesus for help?

Steve said:

The disciples' reaction is so very true to life, isn't it? When we experience danger (medically, emotionally, financially, relationally, etc.), we sometimes react as the disciples did: we panic and accuse God of not caring about us. Like the disciples, we sometimes fail to consider that two things can be true at the same time: we can be in legitimate danger AND the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each care deeply about us (even though it seems to us like He's asleep).

4. We too sometimes panic and accuse God of not caring rather than turning to Him in faith. Why do you think this is? Why are we slow to turn to Jesus for help at times?

