

## Jesus calms a storm (Mark 4)

It was towards the end of a long day and Jesus' disciples, his followers who travelled with him when he was teaching people about God, were all feeling pretty tired.

Who were these friends? Well, there were 12 in particular:

Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew

James and John

Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, another James, Thaddaeus, another Simon and Judas

Jesus suggested that they take a boat over to the other side of the lake. It was a very big lake called the Sea of Galilee with lots of boats on it. Probably some climbed into the boat and some helped to push the boat out, wading into the water and pushing until the boat floated and then they climbed on to it.

At the time of this event, the disciples hadn't known Jesus very long but they were with him for a few years so they experienced a lot more of the amazing things he did and said in the times ahead. But, back to that evening.....

It was a lovely evening. The air smelt good and the sun was just setting. All day Jesus had been working hard, preaching and teaching. It had been a busy day for him and for the disciples. As soon as they were in the boat, Jesus sat down at one end, feeling tired, and very soon he was asleep.

Suddenly, a storm came up and waves started to crash against the boat. It was being blown backwards and forwards and from side to side. The disciples thought they were going to drown. The wind was really howling and the rain was heavy. There was already water in the boat because the waves were crashing right over the side of the boat - one after another.

Some of the disciples had been fishermen for years but they were beginning to feel frightened. They looked at each other wondering if the boat was going to sink and if they were going to drown. Then I looked at the front of the boat and they could hardly believe their eyes. Jesus was still fast asleep. The wind just kept howling and the rain kept pouring and the waves kept crashing over the side of the boat and Jesus was still asleep.

They went over to wake him up and they shouted, "Jesus don't you care that we're going to drown?"

The wind was still howling and the waves were still crashing over the side of the boat and the rain was still very heavy. Jesus stood up in the boat. He heard the howling wind and he felt the pouring rain and he saw the size of the waves and then he said, "Quiet! Be still!"

Suddenly it all went calm. The disciples had never seen anything like it. Normally after a storm the water stays rough for a while but this time the water was calm and completely still. They looked at Jesus and they looked at each other and they said,

"Who is this man? He has such power, even the storm obeyed him".