Four Great Things

**Read:** Mark 4:35-41

**Introduction:** I remember reading a story about a cruise ship caught in a storm. As the ship lurched back and forth and rocked back and forth there was an adolescent boy who just stood and watched the storm out of one of the portholes. A hysterical woman nearby yelled a question to him: “Aren’t you scared?” His reply was: “No ma’am, my dad is at the wheel.” The story is probably not true but it provides an example of how we should trust our heavenly Father when we are in a storm. Most of us are more like the hysterical woman than the adolescent boy.

**A Great Storm:** in vs. 37 Mark tells us that there arose a great storm. There are storms and then there are great storms. This one stood out in the memory of the writer as a great storm. A great storm indicates that the wind was stronger than usual. The waves were probably higher than usual. The men in the boat were men used to the sea. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were fishermen by trade. For these men to be concerned indicates that this storm was more than just a rain squall. It was a storm of epic proportions. It arose quickly and the disciples were immediately engaged; while some tried to control the boat, others were busy bailing water. Recently, the Cunningham family ran into a great storm. Billy was diagnosed with a tumor on his brain. They knew immediately that this was a great storm. While some family members rushed to the hospital others called for prayer support. Friends wonder-ed how they could help and many found ways to bail for a while. Others could tell of great storms that they went through today and how they found solid ground eventually.

**A Great Fear:** Usually the first response to a great storm is great fear. I know that there are some self-righteous people who will tell you that to fear is to sin. They are just plain wrong. To fear is to be normal. I have met men who will say: “I’m not afraid of anything.” They prob-ably lie about other things as well. Let that great big hulking man hear the doctor tell him that his child has an incurable disease and you will see fear incarnate. A military officer is not happy with troops who are fearless. They look for brave men and women who are wise enough to have honest fears as well as the courage to risk their lives facing those fears. These grown men (of the sea) were terrified that the ship would sink and that they would perish. They had been through storms before but rarely one as dangerous as this.

The Bible tells us about two men who slept through a storm. One was Jonah and the other was Jesus. One was running from God and the other was God. Both were awakened by fearful men. Jonah’s storm was calmed by throwing him out. Jesus’s storm was calmed by a holy command.

**A Great Calm:** Jesus commanded the storm to cease and immediately there was a great calm. How long will it take for God to fix your situation? He can fix it immediately. There are promises of God that may take years before complete fulfillment happens. There are many times that His answer is immediate. The stories in the scriptures are legion and I suppose that if we asked for testimonies right now; we would have a legion more. I could tell you of the time that God healed Anthony of a broken collar bone right in my arms. Is there anyone here who can tell me of a time that God answered your prayers? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**A Great Awe:** in verse 41 the disciples said: (with wonder) “What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” They were amazed at what they saw God in the Flesh do. They had seen Him heal the sick and raise the dead. They just saw something that was brand new. He brought a great calm out of a great storm. They were amazed. They were awe struck.

**Conclude:** **A great tragedy:** In the 36th verse we read: “…And there were also with him other little ships.” You really have nothing to be afraid of if Jesus is in your ship. You need to be afraid if there is a great storm and you are in a ship without Jesus. If Jesus is aboard your ship there is not a storm that can sink you. If He is not aboard your ship then there is no one to cry out to in the midst of your storm.

Think about this: to whom does the atheist call out to when he is in distress? If you’ve ever been around one, they will use God’s name in vain even though they claim to not believe in Him. **Altar Call**