

Mark 4:35-41

Finding the Cushion in the Midst of Chaos

³⁵ On that day, when evening came, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd, they took Him along with them in the boat, just as He was; and other boats were with Him. ³⁷ And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. ³⁸ Jesus Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹ And He got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. ⁴⁰ And He said to them, "Why are you afraid? How is it that you have no faith?" ⁴¹ They became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

Rembrandt did a marvelous job of trying to capture the panic in his painting *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee* (shown on the homepage of my web). Picture the scene, and most importantly, try and find yourself in the boat.

You might be interested to know, this is the only mention in the Gospels of Jesus sleeping. And what a great image. It's not just an image of rest, it depicts the calm. Chaos may surround us, but be at ease --- life with Jesus always brings the calmness. He is the Prince of Peace.

The storm's about to swallow up the boat, and there's Jesus sleeping on the "cushion." It's an IMAGE OF COMFORT & PEACE.

Picture it. It's like a commercial for a new bed where you always see these adults at perfect peace on their new mattress. You get all curled up and comfy and everything in the world is just fine.

And there's Jesus asleep on the cushion. There's a threatening storm but Jesus knows everything is under control. He should know, because as the song says, "He's got the whole world in His hands."

During our lives we sometimes find ourselves in the midst of trial; storms tend to kick up here and there. But take heart, Jesus goes with you. It may get difficult, scary and even cause panic. But all you need to do is --- **find the cushion in the midst of the chaos.**

Jesus knows all about the cushion. And, of course, metaphorically, Jesus is our cushion. So, look to your Lord and be at peace. Jesus said, "Why are you afraid?"