



“We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.”

-EFCA Doctrinal Statement Article 2

Regardless of which book or passage we turn to, we must ask:

- QUESTION 1: ***What is the author's point?***
- QUESTION 2: ***How does it fit in the Bible?***
- QUESTION 3: ***How should it affect us now?***

<sup>1</sup> Probably demonic rulers and authorities <sup>2</sup> Or in it (that is, the cross) <sup>3</sup> Or about the things he has seen <sup>4</sup> Son  
<sup>5</sup> Greek therefore your members that are on the earth <sup>6</sup> Some manuscripts add upon the sons of disobedience  
supplied in verse 10

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." 36 And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. 38 But he 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 awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

- Mark 4:35-41 (ESV)

But how do we answer QUESTION 1? Break it into three steps by answering these three smaller questions:

- What is Mark's point in Mark 4:35–41?
- What is Mark's point in the entirety of his Gospel?
- How does 4:35–41 contribute to Mark's overall message in his Gospel?

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# ENGAGE THE TEXT

- Exactly what happens in this story?
- Were others involved in the storm besides the apostles?
- Where exactly was Jesus sleeping? (Wasn't that where the person who steered the boat was supposed to sit?)
- Were they more afraid of the storm or of Jesus in light of his miracle?
- Considering how terrifying the storm was, and that they really could have drowned (humanly speaking), why does Jesus seem to rebuke the disciples for fear and lack of faith?

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# In what stages does Mark unfold this story?

- Mark sets the scene in 4:35–36. (What are some details?)
- The tension mounts in 4:37–38. (Feel the disciples' emotions!)
- The resolution comes in 4:39. (Feel the eerie, sudden calm.)
- Mark records the punch of the story in 4:40–41.

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# Would Jesus's activity have reminded the disciples (or Mark's readers) about anything in their Scripture (the OT)?

- The disciple knew the Psalms well.
- Is Mark using rebuke and stillness to call to mind Psalm 104:5–9, 106:9, or **107:23–31**?
- And if so, what might Mark be pointing out about Jesus since it is Jesus who now does this clearly divine activity?

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# Hinge Passage

27 And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28 And they told him, "John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets." 29 And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." 30 And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. 31 And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

- Mark 8:27-9:1 (ESV)

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## **QUESTION 3:**

***How should it affect us now?***

**(That is, *How should the meaning of the passage [within this book] and its illumination of God's plan affect me and my listeners now?*)**

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**NINE QUESTIONS  
to ask  
regarding the APPLICATION of the Scriptures to our lives:**

- 1. Is there an example for me to follow?*
- 2. Is there a sin to avoid?*
- 3. Is there a promise to claim?*
- 4. Is there a prayer to repeat?*
- 5. Is there a command to obey?*
- 6. Is there a condition to meet?*
- 7. Is there a verse to memorize?*
- 8. Is there an error (doctrinal/theological) to mark?*
- 9. Is there a challenge to face?*

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