

*Cry Out
in a
Crisis*

5-DAY BIBLE DEVOTIONAL

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Day 1

BIBLE READING: MARK 4: 35; MATTHEW 10: 29-31

We begin this plan with the incident of Jesus calming the storm when He was on a boat with the disciples on the Sea of Galilee. The passage we're diving into (Mark 3: 35-41) begins with the words, "On that day when the evening came..." Which day is the writer, Mark, referring to?

It was a busy day where Jesus had been preaching to large crowds. When we look at Mark chapter 3, we see that Jesus had spoken to the disciples and the people gathered around Him about faith. And it was almost as if in the evening, Jesus said to Himself: It's time for a real-life lesson. The disciples had been listening to theory all day. They knew Jesus as their teacher. But did they trust Jesus as Lord? Did they truly believe what He had spoken to them about?

And so the practical lesson begins.

Jesus says to the disciples, "Let's go over to the other side."

Wait! What??! Didn't Jesus know there was a storm brewing?

Of course He did. He was fully man and fully God and He knew what was coming.

Recently I read this statement by J.D. Greear: Has it dawned on you that nothing dawns on God?

God is all-knowing.

But In our frail human understanding, with our limited vision, we're prone to thinking that we know best. We want to play advisors to the God of all creation, the God who designed the sun and the moon, the wind and the rain. And, sometimes, we foolishly ask Him: But God Have you downloaded the Google weather app? Have you asked Siri for an update? Don't you know there are dark clouds up ahead?

But today, friends, God reminds us and assures us that He knows all about the storm. God is not surprised by the storm.

He is never at his wit's end. He never wrings his hands in despair. He never wonders: Now what??

God doesn't promise us a storm-free life. But, in Him, we are overcomers. In Him, we have peace in the midst of trials. In Him, we know our final destination. He will get us to the other side – safe to shore, whether that means the other side of the problem or be delivered into His arms for eternity.

Matthew 10: 31 says this: And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid.

So don't be afraid.

Even if the storms take us by surprise, they never take God by surprise.

We can call out to God in our crisis because He knows about the storm.

Day 2

BIBLE READING: MARK 4: 36-37; 2 CORINTH 12: 19-21

Do we sometimes just take Jesus along for the ride?

Perhaps I'm reading too much into these words from the passage today - And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Perhaps it's not perfectly theologically accurate, but sometimes do we just say, "Fine, God, I'll obey you and head that way but just come along and don't interfere?" Do we just "take him" with us? Or do we allow Him to steer the boat?

Whatever they were feeling or thinking, the disciples took Jesus with them on the boat that evening.

And then came the winds, the rain and the waves.

The boat starts to flood with water.

The fact that the boat was filling with water implies that the storm was going on for a while. After all, it wasn't with the first gust of wind or the first wave that the boat started to sink. Many of the disciples were seasoned fisherman. Did they think they could handle things by themselves? They did not wake Jesus till their very lives were in danger—did they first try to be the heroes of their own story? Maybe they saw Jesus a great teacher—but he was a carpenter's son, not a fisherman!

Finally, as the boat takes on water, they realize that their skills and years of experience are no match for the furious storm. And they call on Jesus.

Let's stop a minute and consider our response to the storms we face. What's our instinctive reaction? Is it to turn to God first? Or is He a last resort, an afterthought in a crisis? Are we so accustomed to relying on our own resources, our own connections, our own experience and skills and money and influence that we sometimes sail along thinking, "I've got this?" Do we wait till the ship is sinking, till there is no other hope to turn to Jesus?

The storms reveal our insufficiency. The storms reveal that we are not enough. The storms reveal that we need Jesus – not as a tag along in the boat, but to steer us through our helplessness.

In that moment, ***when the waves threaten to engulf us, we realize that we can't cling to our bank accounts, our degrees, our experience, or our resources. We can only cling to our Saviour.***

Day 3

BIBLE READING: MARK 4:38; PSALM 147: 3

As the boat is buffeted by the wind and starts to flood with water, the disciples go to Jesus, who is asleep in the stern, and ask him:

“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

Maybe that’s been our cry in times of crises too.

Maybe some of us have stared into heaven bewildered, asking: God, do You not care that we are perishing?

We’re like those disciples in the boat, and our faith is being shaken by the fierce winds and waves and we too are experiencing a crisis of faith in a time of crisis.

But here’s the assurance we have: The God who rested in the violent storm responds to the cries of his people.

Yes, the storm itself may have left Jesus unfazed, but the pleas of his disciples didn’t leave Him unmoved.

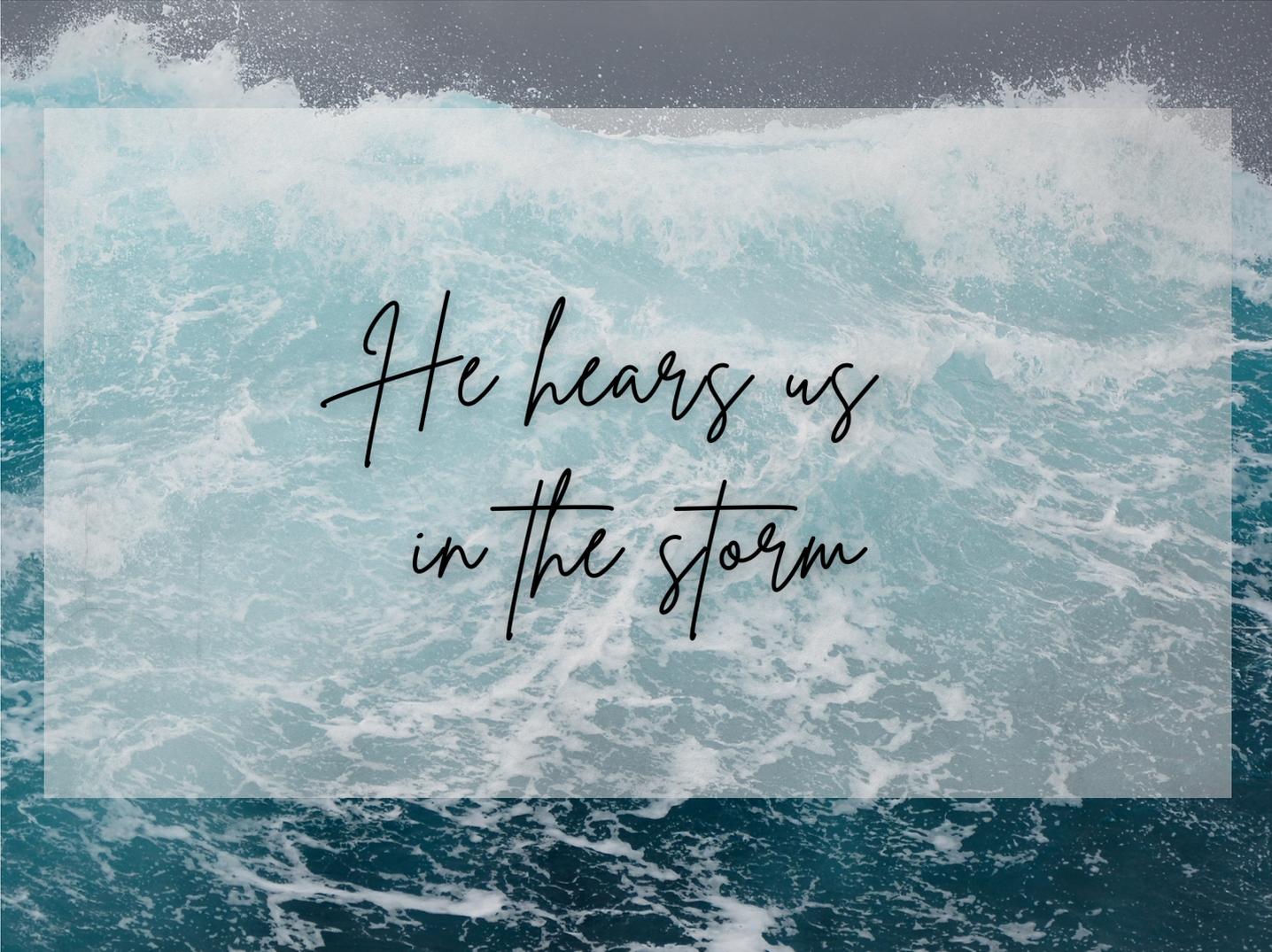
God is not unconcerned in the storm.

Friends, He hears us. Even when the winds and the waves are deafening, and we begin to think that He doesn’t care enough, His Word reminds us that He inclines His ear to us.

We live in a broken world. But the Lord is close to the brokenhearted. He hears the cries of His people.

And He responds.

We can call out to God in a crisis because He hears us in the storm



*He hears us
in the storm*

Day 4

BIBLE READING: MARK 4:39; PSALM 147: 4-5

And then comes the defining moment of this story. The passage says: He awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

The howling winds and the deafening roar of the sea were silenced. Jesus muzzled those furious sounds in a moment.

No matter how chaotic your crisis may seem, no matter how impossible, God is not overpowered by the storm.

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." He is all-powerful. Nothing is too big for him. In our reading of the Psalms today we learn that He determines the number of stars and calls them by name. Astronomers estimate that in our Milky Way galaxy alone, there are about 300 billion. And, God's Word says that He calls them by name. Can you begin to imagine that?

We look at the wind and the waves and we think logically that there's no way out of the storm. But God is not limited by logic or the natural or by what we define as possible.

He is still the mountain-moving, miracle-working God who can still the storm and breathe His peace into our hearts.

We can call out to God in a crisis because He is not overpowered by the storm.

Day 5

BIBLE READING: MARK 4:40-41

Jesus silences the storm with just a few words. But the point of this miracle was not just so the disciples could be safe and have a pleasant boat ride in the moonlight.

This incident was a turning point for the disciples. They went from seeing Jesus as teacher to the One who has authority over nature.

The passage says that “they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?””

The storms we face may be fierce but they are opportunities to shift our focus from the fear of our circumstances to the fear of our God.

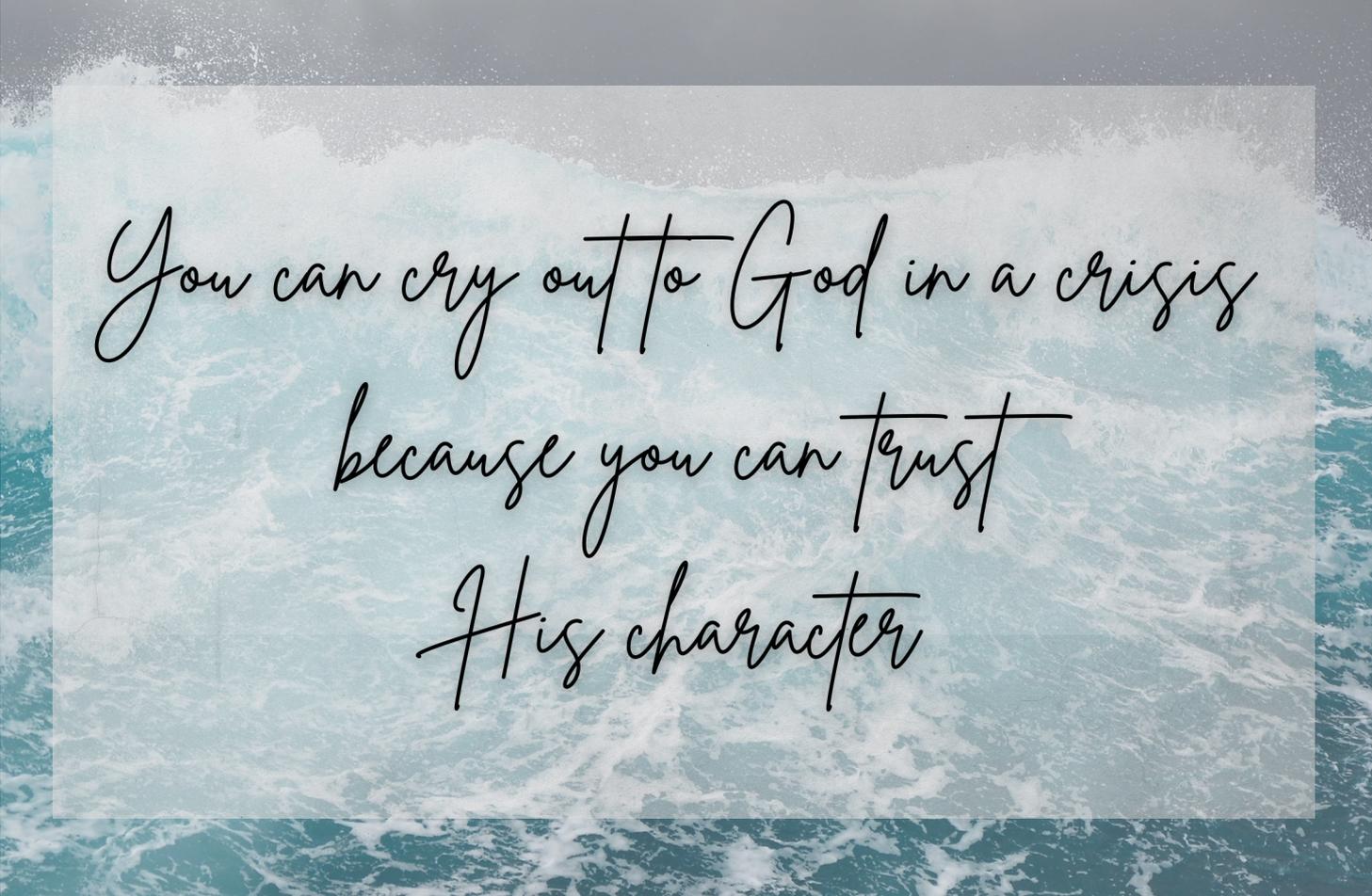
The disciples went from fearing the wind and the waves to being filled with “great fear” of the One who had the power to make the wind and waves obey.

The fear of circumstances makes us forget: We forget the presence of God who is with us in the boat and we forget the promises of God to get us to the other side.

But when we fear God, we are filled with a sense of peace as we remember the presence of God, the promises of God and the very person of God who is not surprised by the storm, who is not unmoved in the storm and who is not overpowered by storm.

Whatever crisis we face, let's call on God who holds the waters in the hollow of His hands, who marks off the boundaries of the oceans, and who commands the storm to "be still." **He is the all-knowing, always-loving, all-powerful King.**

The wind and the waves may buffet, but God is with us in the storm and He says to us, Let's go over to the other side.



You can cry out to God in a crisis
because you can trust
His character