

Spiritual Training Part 17

Words and Sea

Insights from Mark 4:35-40

Mark 4:35-40 (NKJV)

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

1. **Words and Their Impact:** Jesus' command to the wind and sea illustrates the power of words. Just as the wind can move the sea, teachings and words can move people, influencing their thoughts and actions.
2. **Wind and Sea as Metaphors:** The wind represents words or teachings, and the sea represents people. This analogy shows how unstable teachings can create turmoil among people.
3. **Stability in God's Word:** Without a firm foundation in God's Word, people can be tossed back and forth by unstable or false teachings, much like a boat in a stormy sea. Standing firm on God's Word helps prevent being swayed by doubt and confusion.
4. **Relatability of Storms:** Many people can relate to the feeling of being in a storm, both spiritually and physically. Life's challenges can feel like being tossed in a turbulent sea.
5. **Standing Firm in Unstable Times:** Especially when external factors like government stability are uncertain, it's crucial to rely on the enduring Word of God. Isaiah 40:8 emphasizes that while everything else may fade, God's Word stands forever.
6. **Being Doers of the Word:** James 1:22 encourages us to not just listen to God's Word but to act on it. Merely hearing without doing leads to self-deception.

Avoiding the Creation of Storms with Our Words

- **Impact on Relationships:** Our words have the power to create turmoil or peace in our relationships. This includes interactions with our spouse, children, relatives, church members, and colleagues.
- **Guarding Our Speech:** Proverbs 21:23 advises us to guard our mouth and tongue to avoid troubles. Words can lead to various forms of adversity if not carefully managed.

Practical Steps and Prayer

1. Prayer for Guarded Speech:

- **Psalms 141:3 (RSV):** "Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips!"
- **Psalms 141:3 (TLB):** "Help me, Lord, to keep my mouth shut and my lips sealed."

2. Positive Use of Words:

- Words can fill our lives with either positivity or negativity. Conversations and teachings can deeply influence our hearts and minds.
- Encouraging and wise words can uplift and bring healing, while rash words can cause harm (Proverbs 12:25, Proverbs 12:18, Proverbs 13:3, Proverbs 16:21, Proverbs 16:24).

Application (Example):

Mark 4:39: "Then **He** arose and **rebuked** the **wind**, and **said** to the **sea**, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm."

- **Personal Application:** I **rebuke** the **words** or teachings people speak that are contrary to God's word *privately* and **say** to the **people** *privately*, "Peace, be still."
- **Impact on Communities:** Just as Jesus' command affected not only His boat but also other boats around, our words and actions can influence those in our community and beyond.

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36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

By applying these principles, we can ensure our words bring life and stability to ourselves and those around us. Thank you for desiring to learn and apply God's word.

John 17:18 (NKJV): "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

John 14:12 (NKJV): "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

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