

Mark 4:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Analysis

He said Why are ye so fearful how is it ye have no faith. Why ti interrogative. So fearful deiloi cowardly timid. How is it pōs. Ye have no faith ouk echete pistin lacking trust confidence. Question exposes disciples lack of faith despite presence of Christ. Storm caused fear despite Jesus presence. Faith and fear incompatible. Fear reveals unbelief. True faith rests in Christ character power despite circumstances. Disciples had Jesus Himself in boat yet feared. Reformed theology emphasizes faith as gift from God not self-generated. Saving faith trusts Christ completely His power presence goodness. Lack of faith dishonors God suggests He cannot or will not care for His own.

Historical Context

Disciples were experienced fishermen knew storms this one threatened their lives. Yet they had Jesus with them. Peter later walked on water storm (Matthew 14) then looked at waves began to sink. Circumstances overwhelming when focus shifts from Christ to situation. Early church faced persecution martyrdom required faith transcending circumstances. Polycarp at stake threatened with fire replied eternal fire threatened him he would not deny Christ. Faith looks beyond temporal suffering to eternal glory. Medieval martyrs reformers all demonstrated faith despite dire circumstances. Faith is not absence of fear but trust in God despite fear.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does Jesus rebuke disciples for fear when they were in genuine danger
what does this teach about nature of faith?
2. How does having Christ present in your storm change how you should respond to fearful circumstances?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς	Τί	δειλοί	ἐστε	οὕτως	πῶς	οὐκ
And	he said	unto them	Why	fearful	are ye	so	how is it	no
G2532	G2036	G846	G5101	G1169	G2075	G3779	G4459	G3756

ἔχετε πίστιν
that ye have faith
G2192 G4102

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:25 (Faith): And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Matthew 8:26 (Faith): And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Matthew 16:8 (Faith): Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Matthew 14:31 (Faith): And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Matthew 6:30 (Faith): Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Isaiah 42:3 (Parallel theme): A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

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