

**ZOOM WORSHIP AT KAILUA CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**“WITH ME? WITHOUT ME?”**  
**MARK 4:35-41**  
**CONSTANCE MITCHELL, GUEST SPEAKER**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021**

Mark 4:35-41  
New Revised Standard Version

Jesus Stills a Storm

<sup>35</sup>On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” <sup>36</sup>And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. <sup>37</sup>A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. <sup>38</sup>But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” <sup>39</sup>He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. <sup>40</sup>He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” <sup>41</sup>And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

The scripture from Mark depicts a situation where Jesus’s disciples have followed Him into a boat excited for a new adventure with him, only to be tossed about by a huge storm while Jesus himself has fallen asleep. He is awakened by his followers, “Teacher, don’t you care about us?” Of course, Jesus awakens and calms the storm and the waves and then asks the question, “why are you so afraid?” Are you still lacking faith?” What is amazing is that they are left terrified wondering who Jesus is that he has so much power, and NOT focused on the fact that He just saved them from being taken out by the storm.

This scripture is an invitation to reflect on how we regard God's presence in our days. Do we choose to acknowledge God's loving presence with us? Or do we doubt it and yield to our own sense of insecurity and helplessness? The incident also shows us that when the disciples cry out to him, Jesus responds...

The COVID Pandemic has drained us all. When we thought we had it beat, it came surging back. When we thought we were getting used to one set of strategies to stay safe, we were called to learn yet a new set of strategies for addressing the threat. We have all had our share of change. No doubt the stressors of the last year and half have been overwhelming at times. We've also experienced the losses of:

- The things that were familiar and comforting,
- the people we were used to seeing and spending time with,
- the daily routines -

They turned our lives upside down. They might have even made you question if God is really in charge, or even if He still loved you.

Homelessness is a super complex issue. It is also an overwhelming issue and has the power to overwhelm us. We are called upon to be faithful in our response to the need before us, one action at a time. God simply calls us to believe in His ability to do amazing things through you and to ACT in faith.

Takeaways for today:

1. When in doubt, ACT and do your best. You can't be paralyzed by your fear of making a mistake. IN-action can take as many or more lives as any attempt to do good.
2. When you are so exhausted that you can no longer go on, rest in God, and let Him carry you and infuse you with his divine energy.
3. We are called by God to be instruments of his change for good in this world.
4. Be reminded that God stands ready to empower us. But we must each choose in every moment to either trust and act with Him... or without Him? It is a choice... every time.