

According to Mark 4:35-41 and Luke 8:22-25, one day, Jesus, along with his disciples, set out in a boat to cross the Sea of Galilee. While Jesus slept on a pillow, it began to storm, and the waves soon filled the boat with water. The boat was in jeopardy. There was the very real possibility that it might sink.

Meanwhile, the disciples awakened Jesus, calling to him, "Master, Master!" Thoroughly frightened by the howling wind and rolling waves, the disciples sought Jesus' help.

And the disciples went even further, also saying to Jesus, "Carest thou not that we perish?"

Think of it. These disciples of Jesus, who had joined his ministry, heard his sermons, and seen his miracles, were accusing Jesus of not caring about their plight. In times past, Jesus might have fed the poor and healed the sick, but what about now? Though they had heard that "God is love", they accused Jesus of indifference.

Jesus then spoke the words, "Peace, be still", and the winds ceased, and it was perfectly calm.

Jesus could have added words of comfort to his disciples. Jesus could have explained to them that he really did care about them, and that he was sorry for the fright the disciples had endured.

But, he did not. Instead, Jesus rebuked them, asking, "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?"

Right now, there is a virus ravaging the world. Many are sick, and many are dying. We're told that it will only get worse. Are you frightened, Christian? Does Jesus seem to be sleeping through all of this, while our boat is sinking?

Believer, the Lord is fully aware of our need, and he is certainly not indifferent to our plight.

The Sermon on the Mount ends with a story. Two houses are built, and a storm comes to each of one. Yet, only the house built on the rock survives. Some Christians believe that they'll never face a storm, but Jesus' promise is not the absence of storms, but that when they come, the Christian's faith will endure them. Our rock is Jesus!

So, be calm. Pray for needs to be met. Share with others. Show love, just like the Bible says: to brothers, neighbors and even enemies. This is not a time to be frightened but is instead perhaps the best opportunity of our lives to display and share our faith. When others express their fears -- and they will -- it's a wonderful chance to ask them if they know the Lord Jesus.

Jesus is right here, now, just as he was in the boat with the disciples 2,000 years ago. Now is our opportunity to call out to our Master, not in fear but in faith.