

**Catching Up With The Radical Rabbi Sermon Series**  
**“The Radical Rabbi Who Slept on the Job”**  
*by Rev. John C. Tittle*

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 4:35-41 NRSV

<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?”

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What jumps out at you about this passage?
2. What is your favorite miracle of Jesus’?
3. After teaching all day in the boat, Jesus says to the disciples, “Let us go across to the other side.” To the Hebrew mind, the sea represented chaos, evil, and uncertainty. How does Jesus help us cross through chaos and make it to the other side?
4. Jonah slept in the boat and that was a bad thing because he was running away from God and his calling to Nineveh. But here Jesus slept in the boat too. Was this a bad, neutral, or good thing he was doing? Why was he sleeping?
5. Can you think of any scenes in the Bible where God’s people were delivered from or by water?
6. What are some storms you have been through in your life? What are some breaking waves and whipping winds you are experiencing right now?
7. Does Jesus always calm the storm? What happens when the storm doesn’t stop and our boat sinks? Is that Jesus’ fault? Our fault? Or is something different happening? How might Jesus help us when we’ve gone overboard or are lost at sea?
8. What do you think of this statement: Jesus doesn’t always calm the storm, but he can always calm us in the storm.
9. What was Jesus showing about himself with this miracle?
10. Why do we fear the storms more than Jesus is Lord of wind and wave?
11. There are two possible English translations of v. 41. The Greek word *phobeo* can either mean fear (i.e. being terrified) or awe (i.e. reverence). Which one do you think it is?