



Today, we're starting a new series called *Faith in a Frenzied World*.

This is a frenzied world. Life is often dominated by confusion and noise. One of the most consistent things I read about the teenage experience, and I hear from you, is how much *stress* characterizes your lives. You face increased expectations and demands.

- There's the noisy world of social media, where you are always connected and always managing not only your own issues, but everyone else's.
- We escape from the world to our devices because we want to run from the uncomfortable or the frightening—and what we find there is uncomfortable and frightening!
- There's a constant, dizzying news cycle—everything keeps flooding in.

It's not just a digital frenzy that you face. What about crazy friendships? Your parents might find it hard to keep up with who's currently mad at whom, and which of your friends aren't speaking with you right now! You can feel abandoned or alone.

For some of you, you have an unsettling family and home life. Maybe divorced parents. And you're caught in the middle of everything.

These are the years of your life when you get introduced to the fact that people suffer in this world, and often in ways that don't make sense to us. These are some of the experiences we're going to talk about in this series. Each week, we'll look at a scene from Jesus' ministry. Today, He'll show us ***Peace in the Chaos***.

Turn to Mark 4. In Mark chapters 4 and 5, we see Jesus confront the chaos in this world—all the mess and unrest and opposing forces. But there's a word Jesus speaks that is louder than the noise in your life: PEACE.

In this section, we find three scenes of Jesus stepping into a broken world and bringing it under His care and control. Four miracles that reveal the authority and remedy of Jesus over sea and wind, demonic possession, sickness, and death itself. He reigns over all the powers that are hostile to God and bring

distress to you and me—from the large, cosmic scale to the individual needs in our hearts.

In our first scene, Jesus rebukes the chaos in the World.

Mark 4:35–41 (ESV)

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

This story begins in verse 35, with Jesus leading the disciples to cross the sea. So notice: getting out on the water and facing this storm was Jesus’ plan. And He doesn’t do things haphazardly!

Don’t think that Jesus won’t sometimes lead you into chaos. Everything can feel like it’s unraveling, and you’re still right where you’re supposed to be. So don’t hit the escape button every time.

Too many people, when they encounter difficulty or something that feels like it’s beyond them, get disillusioned. They think something’s wrong. And so they want to get out of that friendship ... school ... family. But sometimes, we’re right where Jesus intends us to be.

Here a storm comes, and it begins to tear into the boat and fill it with water. And apparently, it’s a storm that was bad enough that the experienced fisherman are terrified. It’s sudden and intrusive.

But Jesus is asleep! We benefit from knowing this story already. But put yourself in the place of the disciples. About now you begin to think that Jesus is so out of touch! Everything is going wrong, and clearly He doesn’t get it!

By the way, when life begins to scare you, you will be tempted to turn on and accuse the people God has put in your life to help you. You can do that to your

parents; you can do that to church leaders. Here, the disciples do that to Jesus!

They ask, “Don’t you care?” Of course He cares! The whole reason He’s in this boat and on this planet and inside of our chaos is because He’s going to die for them! In moments of tension and fear, our true beliefs get revealed. We don’t trust Him.

But Jesus breaks in:

Mark 4:39 (ESV)

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

He literally says, “Shut up.” He *silences* the growling of fallen nature. He interrupts it, imposing His kingdom on unwieldy forces.

Mark 4:40 (ESV)

He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”

Notice what happens next:

Mark 4:41 (ESV)

“And they were filled with great fear.”

They go from fear ... to another fear. They ask, “*Who is this, that even the wind and sea obey Him?*” He is the One who created the land in the sea. They had taken Jesus “*just as He was*” (v. 35)—and now they see Him for who He really is.

The waves respond to their Maker. Jesus brings order out of disorder.

Do you have a sense of the *awesomeness* of Jesus? If not, then the chaos you encounter in this world will be overwhelming. Everything will lack proportion. Mark wants to *impress* upon you an accurate picture of who He is.

One day, Jesus will calm the storm by being thrown into it. Just like Jonah was asleep in the boat and cast into the sea to be swallowed by a whale, Jesus will be cast into death and swallowed by the Earth, but come bursting forth on the



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