

**Life Group Notes**  
**Sunday 26 November 2017**

**Speaker:** Andy McCullough

**Series:** Disciples of Jesus

**Title:** Mission

**Passages:** Mark 4:35-5:15

What do we learn from this story?

1. One word from Jesus can calm the storm you're in, or the storm in you. First Jesus calms the storm on the lake, then he calms a storm in a man. He rebukes both storms as if they were demonic.
2. Jesus leads us out of our safe place to bring fear to the surface so he can deal with it. Fear must be exposed so that its head can be cut off. Sometimes Jesus puts us in scary situations so that our insipient fear can be brought to the surface.
3. Crisis is normal. Don't be ashamed if your boat is sinking. Don't pretend everything is ok. Ask for help. Jesus leads these disciples from a place of comfortableness into a place of crisis.
4. Mission is never the powerful helping the powerless, the sorted helping the messed up. We all experience different kinds of storms. Mission is one storm-survivor saying to another storm-battered life, "Let me introduce you to the storm-muzzler. He did it for me, and he will do it for you!"
5. The devil will make storms to try and stop us getting to new places. This storm happened because the disciples were crossing 'to the other side' to reach new people in a new place.
6. The cross of Jesus Christ absorbs all evil so we can be free. The pigs are a picture of substitutionary sacrifice; the evil comes out of the man and into the pigs. They die so he can live. This, if you will allow it, is a metaphor for the cross of Christ. He absorbs our darkness, we are set free.
7. This man's story is our story: He was naked, now he is clothed. He was restless, now he is sitting at the feet of Jesus. He was tormented by evil, harming others and harming himself. Now he is in his right mind and completely transformed.

Questions for application

1. With which character do you identify in this story?
2. Jesus speaks three commands; "Let's go to the other side," "Peace, be still," and "Come out of the man!" Which command do you need to hear Jesus saying today?
3. Why is mission part of discipleship? Why is it important to be led out of our comfortable place into scary places?
4. When we have been through a storm, we are more likely to empathise than demonise, to love rather than to judge. Do you agree? Where have you experienced this?
5. Is there anything that you are afraid of/ anxious about at the moment? Pray for one another.