



## *Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)*

### *Day 1: Chorus*

I will call upon Your Name  
And keep my eyes above the waves  
When oceans rise  
My soul will rest in Your embrace  
For I am Yours and You are mine

### *Scripture Reference*

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

- *Mark 4: 35-40*



This week we will look at two stories in the New Testament that involve danger on the waters. Our first is found in Mark 4. The disciples are out in a boat and, out of nowhere, an unexpected, severe storm ensues. Waves are breaking over the boat. Although several of the men onboard were likely fishermen who knew how to handle a boat, this storm was outside of their control and their abilities. Often, like the men on the boat, we find ourselves in our storms in life. Often unexpected. Often quickly beginning out of nowhere. Sometimes we just don't know how to handle the storm; how best to proceed.

*Have you had any storms in life that came up unexpectedly or quickly? How did the storm make you feel? Where did you turn; what actions did you take?*

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In our scripture, we find Jesus on the boat with the disciples. Asleep. On a comfortable cushion. What a picture that is, isn't it? While the storm is raging and the waves are overtaking the boat, Jesus is comfortably asleep. Have you ever wondered how He could so easily sleep in such an uncertain time? While we can't know for sure, maybe it's because He knew the outcome of the storm. He knew He could and would calm it. No matter the reason, let us not forget the first fact: Jesus was with them. Just as He was with the men in their storm, Jesus is with us in all our storms in life. He never leaves us.

*During the storms you mentioned above, did you feel God's presence? If you couldn't feel it then, can you look back now and see His presence?*

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In fear, the men turned to Jesus. They called on His name - albeit a bit frustrated, asking Jesus if he even cared about their safety. Do we call on Jesus in the middle of our storms? Even if out of frustration, do we recognize we can turn to Him? He can keep our eyes above the waves that threaten to overtake us. We can find rest in Him.

*In the middle of your storms, do you call upon the name of Jesus? Do you look to Him for your safety, provision, and rest? Do any of those three requests come easier to you? If so, which one and why? Which is the most difficult to request in the storm? Why do you think that is?*

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Upon waking, Jesus immediately calms the storm. He showed His awesome power that moment. He again proved to the disciples His sovereignty, that He could even control the winds and waves. The storm was never out of His control. Although the danger of the storm was very real, the men were always under the protection of Jesus. The same is true for us. Even in the very real storms of life, as believers, we are under the protection of Jesus. We are His and He is ours. You can rest knowing He is in control and His perfect purpose will prevail.

*If you're in the midst of a storm now, turn to Jesus in prayer this very moment. Ask for His protection and thank Him now for it because He will protect you. If you're not in a storm, thank the Lord for His deliverance through previous storms. Ask for His continued protection in whatever storms may come in the future. End either prayer finding rest in His embrace.*

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