



DIGGING DEEPER

who is this / why are you so afraid?

PLEASE READ – Mark 4:35-41

LISTEN UP!

Re-read the passage, out loud. Take on board Jesus' exhortation to really **hear** what is going on. **Imagine** the scene, as if you were one of the disciples. What's going through your mind? A day of spiritual study; obedience to Jesus call (to cross the lake). You're In God's will, right?

Then a major disaster – life threatening. Are you tempted to think That's unfair; Jesus doesn't care...?

Reflect / discuss:

are troubles more/less likely to come when we are/are not walking by faith?

Read James 1:2-4

LEARN TO TRUST

After Jesus rebuked the wind and waves, what did you expect – Jesus' gentle reassurance? What did Jesus actually say?

See also Mark 5:36

Reflect / discuss:

what is the relationship between faith (or lack of) and fear?

Reflect / discuss:

what effect do you think this test of faith (and its resolution) had on the disciples?

what in particular from this passage will help you next time you are anxious?

LEARN TO FEAR!

Compare verses 40 and 41.

Reflect / discuss:

What are the differences between the first and second fear?

What does each show about their relationship with / view of Jesus?

The phrase “The fear of the Lord” and similar eg “God-fearing person” used to be relatively common, but seem to have gone out of fashion.

Reflect / discuss:

Why might that be? Is it a good or bad thing?

What is lost by losing the concept of The fear of the Lord?

What is your concept of The fear of the Lord?

The Fear of the Lord is such a rich concept it isn't easy to come up with a simple definition. One aspect certainly is *Assurance of God's benevolence towards us*, (as one 16th century theologian put it) in the whole of life. Other aspects have included such things as *fearing to offend the God you love*. But its best to turn to scripture to begin to grasp some of its characteristics.

Look up the following selection of references to The fear of the Lord (there are dozens more!)

Exodus 20:20	The same basic word (in Hebrew) is used both for 'afraid' and 'fear' It's essential meaning is 'tremble'
Jeremiah 33:6-9	The word 'awe' (v9 NIV) is elsewhere (and in most versions) translated as 'fear'
Proverbs 9:10	Probably the best known reference
Deuteronomy 10:12	Note the link between fear and love for the Lord
Isaiah 11:2,3	Probably the most surprising of all. Who is the prophet speaking about?

WHO IS THIS?

Knowing the fear of the Lord is clearly A Good Thing! How can we grow in it? The simple answer is reflect on the answer to the disciple's question! (Verse 41)

Take time out in the coming week to:

Reflect on who God is: Awesome in creation, in his beauty, majesty....

Reflect on the incredible truth this God invites us to call him Father....

Reflect on the cost of redemption (Gethsemane as well as the cross)....

Reflect on the one who is the Son of God and the Son of Man....

This is the One who draws us into his presence... ***Doesn't it make you tremble?***

“Fear him you saints: then you will have nothing else to fear”!

DIGGING EVEN DEEPER – EXTRA!!

As Mark's account continues in Chapter 5 can you spot any other examples of fear / faith / trembling?