

Off the Rationalistic Continuum
Copyright J. Michael Strawn

Mark 4:35-41. CONFIRMED: THE REALITY OF GOD, THE WORD OF GOD, THE POWER OF GOD
and TRUE FAITH IN GOD TAKES SITUATION and CIRCUMSTANCE OFF THE RATIONALISTIC
CONTINUUM

Jesus calms the storm

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, 'Let us go over to the other side.' ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ 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?'

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, 'Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?'

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, 'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'

(NIV)

#1. The situation was dangerous. "A fierce gale of wind" "arose" (v. 37.) "The boat was already filling up" (v. 37.) The disciples on board were terrified at the threat of death on the Sea of Galilee.

Everything was out of control! Their fear was quite understandable; even predictable by human standards. The problem: To these men on board the storm, the hydrology of the lake and finite human strength were all tied to a rationalistic continuum.

#2. Here is how it works. They were on a small boat. It can only stand so much force. The "fierce gale" was swamping the integrity of the vessel. Danger of sinking was imminent. Time was short.

Emergency! Probability was catapulting into certainty. Sound familiar? Their conclusion: "We are perishing" (v. 38.)

#3. Then the disciples "woke Him" (Jesus) -- v. 38. The Lord immediately "said to the sea, 'Hush, be still'" (v. 39.)

And it did!

"Why are you afraid?" He asked, "do you still have no faith?" (v. 40.) Jesus was unconcerned with the "dangerous situation" -- He was asleep (v. 38.)

#4. Why not? Because He knew very well the storm was not on the “rationalistic continuum” but on the continuum of true faith! His disciples did not believe that.

What is the situation on your "little boat"?

The Lord has confirmed His word and power. Let us confirm our faith!