



**THE TEST**  
**MARK 4:35-41**

**In both the Old and New Testaments, the words translated “test” mean “to prove by trial.”**

- Therefore, when God tests His children, His purpose is to prove that our faith is real. Not that God needs to prove it to Himself since He knows all things
- He is proving to us that our faith is real, that we are truly His children, and that no trial will overcome our faith.

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- Parable of the seed and soil – in each one of the soils there was a time of testing after the seed was spread
- **James 1:3 NLT** For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

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- **1st Peter 1:6-7a NLT** 6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. 7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold

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- **1st Corinthians 10:12-13 NLT** 12 If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. 13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

**In both the Old and New Testaments, the words translated “test” mean “to prove by trial.”**

- Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry he was tested
  - Wilderness – **Matthew 4:1 NLT** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil.

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- Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry he was tested
  - Peter arguing about going to Jerusalem –  
**Matthew 16:21 NLT** But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!”

**In both the Old and New Testaments, the words translated “test” mean “to prove by trial.”**

- Throughout Jesus’ earthly ministry he was tested
  - Garden of Gethsemane – **Matthew 26:38 NLT** Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

**In both the Old and New Testaments, the words translated “test” mean “to prove by trial.”**

- The disciples had heard the messages of Jesus many times
  - He has taught them personally and privately
  - Have they really grasped who Jesus is and what His message means?
  - The only way to know is to test them
- **Mark 4:35-41**

- Petersen, J. Allan The Myth Of The Greener Grass, “Circumstances don't make a man, they reveal him. Like teabags, our real strength comes out when we get into hot water.”
- I'm guessing the disciples thought they had Jesus and His kingdom all figured out

- This testing was not to demonstrate their failure but to show them their need for deeper understanding and faith
- Jesus is not questioning their fear. Each of us would have been fearful in this circumstance
  - He is questioning their understanding of Himself and their challenge to Him
  - **vs. 38b**, “Do you not care about us?”
- What did they expect Jesus to do?

- In the Greek, **vs. 40** is not spoken harshly, but with the idea of teaching something deep
- There are at least three reasons they did not need to be overcome by fear

## Jesus had promised they were going to the other side

- **Mark 4:38 NIV** Let us go to the other side
- His commandments are always His enablement
- Nothing can hinder the working out of His plans
- **Psalms 73:26 NLT** My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.

## Jesus had promised they were going to the other side

- **Deuteronomy 31:6 NLT** So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will personally go ahead of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you.” (*Speaking to Joshua taking over for Moses*)
- He did not promise them an easy trip

## Jesus had promised they were going to the other side

- **Psalms 34:17-19 NLT** 17 The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. 18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. 19 The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

## Jesus had promised they were going to the other side

- He did promise a guaranteed arrival at their destination
- **2nd Peter 3:9 NLT** The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

## The Lord himself was with them

- Since Jesus was with them giving them an example of faith, what did they really have to fear?
  - What was His example of faith?
    - **vs. 38** Jesus was in the stern sleeping
- They had already seen His miracles
- They should have had complete confidence that Jesus could handle any situation that came against them

## The Lord himself was with them

- This test showed the disciples did not understand that Jesus was indeed the Master of every situation
  - They did not really know Him
- **vs. 41** They were terrified and asked, “Who is this?”
- Terrified not of the storm, but of the one who was Master of the storm

## The Lord himself was with them

- “Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion.” “Ooh” said Susan. “I'd thought he was a man. Is he-quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion” ...“Safe?” said Mr Beaver ...“Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you.”  
— C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
- **Hebrews 10:31 NLT** It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God

## The Lord himself was with them

- Jesus is so much greater that you can even imagine
  - So much more wonderful, marvelous and trustworthy
- **1st Thessalonians 5:23-24** NLT 23 Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. 24 God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

**They could see Jesus was in perfect peace, even in the midst of the storm, and that fact alone should have encouraged them**

- Jesus was in God's will and He knew the Father would care for Him, so He took a nap
- The disciples mistook Jesus' sleep to be not caring rather than faith in action
- Jesus slept because He was truly in God's will and completely trusted His Heavenly Father to complete His will

**They could see Jesus was in perfect peace, even in the midst of the storm, and that fact alone should have encouraged them**

- **Psalms 4:8 NIV** In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.
- The greatest danger to His disciples was not the wind and waves, nor sinking but their unbelief

**They could see Jesus was in perfect peace, even in the midst of the storm, and that fact alone should have encouraged them**

- Our greatest problems are within us, not around us
- It was their unbelief that caused their fear and their fear caused them to question whether Jesus really cared

**They could see Jesus was in perfect peace, even in the midst of the storm, and that fact alone should have encouraged them**

- **Hebrews 3:12-13 NIV** 12 See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

## **This is one of many lessons Jesus will teach His disciples around the Sea of Galilee**

- Each lesson would reveal something wonderful about Jesus
- They now know
  - Jesus can forgive sins
  - Jesus has authority over demons
  - Jesus can heal every disease, sickness and brokenness known to man

## **This is one of many lessons Jesus will teach His disciples around the Sea of Galilee**

- Now they know Jesus commands the wind and sea
- So, what should this tell us?
  - We really have no good reason to every be led/controlled/overcome by fear again
  - The Lord is in constant control of every situation even if we cannot see it with our eyes of flesh

## This is one of many lessons Jesus will teach His disciples around the Sea of Galilee

- **Isaiah 12:2 NLT** See, God has come to save me. I will trust in him and not be afraid (*overcome by fear*). The Lord God is my strength and my song; he has given me victory.” (*even if I do not see it with my eyes of flesh yet*)



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