

## Mark 4:35-40

To question the **existence** of God after the death of a loved one  
Is not only **natural** but also very **understandable**

Is this **really** what God wants for us?  
Is this **really** how its all supposed to be?

Even after such a **long** life  
Is this **really** how God planned it to end?

In a world **filled** with suffering and pain  
In an age of **uncertainty, fear** and **instability**

And in our own lives **punctuated** by frustration & bitterness  
It seems appropriate to **question** the goodness of God

**Especially**, on a day like today  
**Particularly**, as we remember our pain and their passing

As we now recall through **misty eyes** the absence of one we love  
Like **this...** In **this** way...

Now perhaps **more** than ever before  
Death seems so **final** to us... so **complete** so **conclusive**

Naturally, understandably, we **ask** the big theological questions

- Is God **really** a good God?
- Why **did** a good God allow this to happen?
- Does God even **care** that we die?

And while it seems **natural** for us to ask these questions  
It would be terribly **naïve** of us to think

We were the **first** ones ever to think like this

That we're the **first** people to have ever **asked** the question...  
Does God **care** if we die?

For centuries people have been **asking** the big questions  
In the face of death

Even **back** in Jesus day people were asking it  
Even **way back then**, people asked the big questions of God!

And if you were **listening** carefully to the Bible reading  
You'd have **heard** the big question being asked

Jesus' disciples **asked** him in the middle of a storm

**In the face of death - they asked Jesus in v. 38**

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

It's a **great** question! Isn't it?

I mean; here are the **disciples** of Jesus  
Minutes away from certain **death**

Aboard a **tiny** boat in a **huge** storm  
**Soaked** to the bone about to **drown**

And down **below** amongst the cargo  
Now **sleeping**

Is the one who **made** the oceans  
The one who **controls** the weather!  
The one who even **ordered** this very storm!

Tell me, if you were **on board** that boat with the disciples  
And God was **below deck** taking a nap

Wouldn't you **want** to wake him up too?  
Wouldn't you **ask** him if he cared that we're all about to die?

And we are **dying** aren't we?  
If today tells us anything death is where we're headed too!

Our bodies **aren't** getting any younger?  
And keeping an eye on our **health** is about all we really can do...

There's **no guarantees** in this life for us  
Except that **one day** our life will come to an end

"Teacher, don't you **care** that we are perishing?"

It's the question that the **disciples** ask of Jesus  
It's the question that **we're asking** of Jesus

**Listen to Jesus answer in v. 39**

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace!  
Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

What's Jesus **answer** to our question?

Does Jesus **care** at all that we're perishing?

Jesus answers our biggest question with an unequivocal **yes!**

By **speaking** to the wind and the waves  
Jesus says **yes** to us

By **saving** his disciples from death  
Jesus is **answering** our question:

**Yes**, Jesus **cares** that we're dying!

In fact, if you read **any** of the accounts of Jesus' life in the Bible  
Jesus' life **constantly** answers **Yes**

Jesus' whole life on earth was lived to answer **this very question**  
Mark tells us Jesus not only **saved** his disciples in a storm

But he also **healed** the sick  
Gave **sight** to the blind and **hearing** to the deaf

The lame could **walk**,  
The mute could **talk**.  
And even the **dead** were raised.

**Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes.**

Everything in the life of Jesus says **Yes!**

Jesus says **Yes!**

He **cares** that we're perishing!

He cares that we're still **mourning** and **grieving**

He cares that we're here today **remembering**

He cares that we've **never stopped** remembering

But he not only said **yes** to us by his life

Jesus' **death** is a conclusive **yes** to us.

Jesus says **yes** he cares that we're perishing

Even when we keep on saying **no** to God

Jesus says **yes** he cares for us

Even when we've cared **nothing** for him

Jesus says **yes** he cares that we're dying

Even when we continue **living** our lives without him in it!

And you know friends... it's because we **live** without God

Because we **choose** to do what we want when we want

Because we live **our life our way** without him in it!

That we are **perishing!**

The Bible calls that **sin** and that's why we're **dying!**

**Death** only occurred because of **sin**

But Jesus **cares** that we're perishing

He even **cares** enough to have done something about it

Jesus **dies** on the cross so we can live

Jesus **dies** for us so we won't **perish** but have **eternal life**

Jesus **dies** in our place

He **dies** for people who've always said **no** to God

Jesus **dies** our death because he **cares** that much about us  
He cares that we're **dying**

And he doesn't **want us** to die anymore!  
By his **death** for us Jesus **offers** us life forever

Life **beyond** the grave  
Life that **lasts forever** with him even though in this life we die

If you **realise** you're perishing  
And that Jesus **cares** enough to have done something about it

Then it's time to stop saying **no** to God  
And to start saying **yes** to him!

**Don't** face death without the one who died for you!

**Don't** keep asking if God **cares** for you  
If you don't **care** for him!

Don't keep saying **no** to a Saviour!  
Don't keep saying **no** to Jesus

When Jesus **only ever** says **yes** to you!

**Let's Pray**