PASTOR'S NOTES

The King Whom Creation Obeys

See Psalm 107. (Sailors navigate the sea, but they do not control it. Only God has authority over creation.)

Read Mark 4:35–41

Consider four truths:

1. Following Jesus does not exempt us from life's storms.

Sometimes we assume that if we're walking with Christ and seemingly doing the right things, we should live trouble-free. But the disciples were right where Jesus told them to be, doing as he instructed, and yet in the middle of a catastrophic, life-threatening storm.

Difficult circumstances do not necessarily indicate that we are outside God's will.

2. Jesus' silence never means that he is indifferent to us.

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

We're all vulnerable to erroneous thinking and belief when we're overwhelmed with tragic circumstances. In fact, we rarely think rightly of God when we interpret his character through our circumstances rather than understanding our circumstances in light of God's character revealed through his word.

He is the Prince of Peace, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. Though he is asleep, his divine authority over creation is not suspended. And his love and affection for his own never cease; they remain constant.

That night the disciples feared for their lives and questioned his care, but how and when he would deal with the storm would be up to his perfect wisdom.

Note: Amid all the noise and chaos, the only thing that stirred him was the disciples' cry. "Save us Lord; we are perishing" (Matthew 8:25). He cares!

3. Jesus' authority is absolute, even over what we cannot control.

Jesus woke up and rebuked and gave an order to the seas, "Peace! Be still!" And creation obeyed. And the change was immediate. What the disciples were powerless to accomplish in their experience and strength, Jesus did with one command. What does that tell us about him?

Psalm 107 describes sailors caught in a terrifying storm, helpless against the wind and waves. They cried out to Yahweh, and *"He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed."* (Psalm 107:29 ESV) Now, centuries later, Jesus stands in a boat on the Sea of Galilee and exercises that same divine authority. The one who commands the sea in Psalm 107 also commands the sea in Mark 4.

We spend lots of time and energy trying to manage circumstances that are ultimately beyond our control. We cannot prevent every tragedy, overcome every sickness and disease, or guarantee what tomorrow will bring. We are limited. However, Jesus is not limited as we are. Absolutely nothing in his creation operates independently of his sovereign authority.

However, sometimes, in his wisdom, he allows us to endure circumstances we would desperately like him to change. But even in those difficulties, his authority has not diminished, his purposes have not failed, and his love and care haven't grown slack.

The disciples would discover that the greatest power that night was not the storm threatening to overwhelm them. The greatest power was the sovereign Savior and King who was with them in the boat.

4. Genuine faith grows as we come to know Jesus more fully.

"Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" (Mark 4:40 ESV)

Although the disciples had seen and heard his authority, they still did not fully understand who Jesus was. And when the storm arose, their fear overwhelmed their confidence in him. They were so consumed with what was happening around them that they failed to consider who was with them.

Remarkably, the very storm that exposed the weakness of their faith became the occasion for a greater revelation of Christ's glory.

The Lord grows our faith the same way. The disciples' experience reminds us that our circumstances may reveal weaknesses in our faith, but they can also become occasions through which God deepens our understanding of Christ and strengthens our confidence in him.

"Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41)

MeadowBrook CHURCH

Sunday, November 22, 2026 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com



CONNECT *people to Christ and His church*

THE WELL *mom connections*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1 · 9:00 AM at Café '59

Moms are invited to join us for a time of fellowship, devotion, prayer, and a cup of coffee from 9:00-11:00 AM at Café '59. Childcare will be provided in the gym.

Email thewell@mbchurch.com with any questions

NEXT STEPS

TAKE THE NEXT STEP AT MEADOWBROOK

NEXT STEPS LUNCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 | 11:45 AM | CONFERENCE CENTER

This lunch is for anyone who has been attending and prayerfully considering membership at MeadowBrook. We'll walk through our doctrine, beliefs, structure and answer any questions you may have. (Pre-requisite for membership)

Register on the App or mbchurch.com



HIGH SCHOOL WINTER RETREAT '26

MONDAY, DEC 28–THURSDAY, DEC 31

WINTERPLACE SKI RESORT // WEST VIRGINIA

REGISTRATION + DETAILS AVAILABE AT MBCHURCH.COM OR ON THE APP

GROW *them as disciples and equip them to*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

TODAY

8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 & 10:30 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 & 10:30 am - Life Group
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Kids - Kids' Theater
9:00-11:30 am - MeadowBrook Preschool

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
4:30 pm - Men's Bible Study - Conference Center

Happy Thanksgiving!

Enjoy spending time with family and friends! There will be no Fellowship Meal or Wednesday Services this week. The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday.

life group

Life together for the Kingdom of God

Take the next step toward finding Christ-Centered community at MeadowBrook by visiting a Life Group.

For a listing of our classes, pick up a Life Group booklet at Guest Connections.

Welcome

If you are our **GUEST**, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a FREE gift!

2026 DAILY BIBLE READING

Nov 22 - Zechariah 12:10-14
Nov 23 - Zechariah 13
Nov 24 - Zechariah 14
Nov 25 - Malachi 1
Nov 26 - Malachi 2:1-16
Nov 27 - Malachi 2:1-16
Nov 28 - Malachi 2:17-3:6

SERVE *through missions, ministry and worship*

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, December 2 • 6:30 PM • Dining Hall

MeadowBrook's 2027 Ministry Plan is available online at mbchurch.com under our "Resources" tab

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS OFFERING



MeadowBrook gives generously because we desire Christ's Kingdom to bear fruit in our community and around the world. When we give, a portion of every dollar given in the general offering and every dollar given to the International Missions Offering goes directly to the mission field. Give your transforming gift at **giving.mbchurch.com** by selecting the **"International Missions"** fund, or use the envelopes provided in the seat pockets.

Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kyle Hughes, Robert Darnell, Aiden Beck, Larry Hill, Jamye Ingram, Tiki Kemp, Anna Rae Wilson, Bonnie Pierce, Scott Watford, Sharon Tillison, Paul Roberts, Carol Collins, Loucille Edge, Linda Dees

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Chris Burnette, Lloyd & Diane Matthews, Susan Mize, Lola-Ruth Adams, Archie Wade, Landon Cunningham, Denise Dover, Peggy Brizendine, Kathy Thompson, Jimmy & Delores Thompson, Lavelle Ogletree, Danny Maddox, Robin Roberts, Ron Crawford, Phil Causey, Janet Maise, Rita Tipton, David Draper, Reese Robinson, Charlotte Taylor, Lindsey Rakestraw, Laura Hoge, Gary Alexander, Karen Ragan, Linda Roy, Joan Henry, Tim Davis, Gerry Grant, Dorothy Hand, Kenny Cahall, Larry Parker, Sandra & Wendell Qualls, Aiden Barron, Ruth Ann Stough, Dele Cannon, Larry Moore, Don Garris

- Sondra Yarbrough & family in the loss of her mother
- Alan Kwan's parents (car accident) father at UAB, mother at Spain Rehab