

3.6.C(19). Weeds- Choking False Views of Jesus Mashiach. 4:26-41

Mark 4:35-41

³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, **“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”** 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. ⁴⁰ He said to them, **“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”** ⁴¹ And they were filled with great **fear** and said to

one another, “**Who then is this**, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Mark 4:37-41:

Background:

Faith and Fear:

Remember that the Mashiach's mandate as the Son of Man is to bring you into God's original state of *rest* for you. That is, you can truly *rest* and not feel a need to manufacture, defend, struggle for, or control the aspects of life because you are now under the Lordship, the dominion of a Lord who has all power to keep you safe and fill your life with his “grace”—providing every “good” and perfect gift you need (John 10:10) and “peace”—the assurance and security of knowing that you have been reconciled and brought near to all in the family. You can enjoy an eternal *shalom* with God, knowing that He surrounds you and causes all

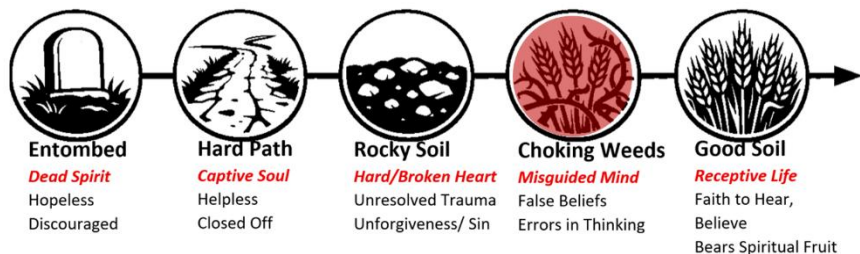
things to work for your “good” now that you are in his “rest” (Romans 8:28).

So, faith is the assurance and living out of this “rest”—this shabbat—in a world that is full of trouble, of chaos, of testing and deprivation. In this world of testing, your Lord covers you in his Kingdom and gives you rest.

When defining *faith* in this way, to rest in full assurance in the Lordship of Jesus Mashiach in his Kingdom, you can see that the opposite of this faith is *fear*—to be filled with a sense of dread, not knowing whether you will be protected or not.

So, as you read this story of the faith of the disciples, ask yourself, what is the source of their fear? Or, in other words, what is the *false growth* that is choking the Faith of the apostles? Understanding the source of this fear through this trial they face will certainly help their faith strengthen as this *foreign growth* is excised.

As a disciple, you may also want to check your life for the *falsehoods* that are growing in your life that are choking your faith. What are you afraid of? You can trace these fears back to areas where your mind is being misguided so that your trust in Jesus as your Lord is being undermined.



Focus:

1. False View of Jesus: leads to Fear. 4:35-38.
2. Fear- Choked Faith Rebuked. 4:39-40.
3. Further Doubt: Fuzzy view of Jesus 4:41

Consider:

When we pick up the story of Jesus and his disciples traveling by boat across the lake, know that these men have accompanied Jesus for a period of time. They have seen him heal the sick and cast out demons. They have heard him preach and have heard the testimony of John, anointing Jesus as the Mashiach and naming him the beloved son of God.

In the other Gospel accounts, they have even heard the Scriptures speak of him and point out that this Jesus has fulfilled all that has been said of him. He is the one speaking in parables, anointed by the Spirit, and carrying our disease and afflictions.

1. False View of Jesus: leads to Fear. 4:35-38.

But, as the great “windstorm” arises (37), it is not to the Word of God that they are looking but to what they can see with their eyes, the “waves” battering them and the “boat” filling with water.

● **Test #1: Where are you looking?**

Faith grows when the Word of God grows and changes our lives. So, the basis of faith is entirely the Word of God. But, in times of trial, if we look not to the Word but to what we can see in the world, if we rely on our own experiences to understand what we are seeing in this material reality, then we are being guided by the “flesh,” and this fleshly attention of our minds, based on our understanding and experience, will always be misguided and steered from the path of faith. This is what Jesus meant when he said that building our lives, that is, our confidence, on anything but His Word, is building your “house” on the “sand” (Matthew 7:26).

- Test #2: How do you view Jesus?

So, the first step the *faith failure* of the apostles is that they relied on their fleshly understanding rather than what the Word of God said. And, relying on their “flesh,” they had a *misguided view of Jesus*.

The disciples were not unique in developing this *faulty view of Jesus*. It is far too easy, especially among those who have already become disciples, to let these “choking weeds” of **falsehood** deter, weaken, or even undermine our faith.

In this moment of crisis, these disciples merely saw and called out to Jesus as “Teacher” (38). Of course, Jesus did teach, but calling him “Teacher” denied him the centrality of his works and calling. Jesus did not simply come to this earth to “teach.” Rather, they traveled with Mashich, the Lord whom Simon Peter had witnessed command even the fish of the sea (Luke 5:5).

So, the *fleshly mind* diminishes the power and authority of Jesus Mashiach as “Lord.” And, its *limited view of Jesus* as “Teacher” rather than “Lord” not only minimizes his power, it also maligns his character, for they also say: “Do you not care that we are perishing?” (38). Let’s count the number of falsehoods they cling to in that statement:

- Jesus Mashiach **does not care** about them or their safety.
- They are **certainly perishing**, and Jesus is unable or unwilling to change this inevitability.

Thus, because in crisis these disciples fall back to trusting their fleshly understandings, they acquire a “**false view** of Jesus” as an uncaring and powerless figure who can only teach but do nothing else. This *false view* of Jesus as merely a powerless Teacher chokes the vitality from their faith, for, it replaces all the truth of the Word of

God will falsehood. This falsehood *asserts*, Mashiach is not “the Son of God,” which God promised David concerning the coming Mashiach (2 Samuel 7:14), and neither is he the “Lord” as John the Baptist preached (Mark 1:3) to fulfill God’s promise in Isaiah 40:3. What they see before them is simply a guy named “Jesus” who taught us a few things most recently.

Incidentally, when our *fleshly minds* focus on the false things of this world as legitimate, these “falsehoods” also become the “choking weeds” Jesus foretells in the parable of the sower: the falsehood of *fleshly religion* that renders Mashiach a mere idea or virtuous role model to support our *fleshly efforts to be* Self-redeeming and Self-righteous. The falsehood of money as real power, which shifts faith away from the Lord to the practicalities of *monetary power* to effect change in the world.

2. Fear- Choked Faith Rebuked. 4:39-40.

So, when Jesus speaks the word “Peace! Be still!” to the raging waters (39) to impose a great calm to settle the waves, he reminds the disciples of the reality of his true power as the Lord.

Then, the Lord rebukes their *weak faith*, saying, “Have you still no faith?” (40). By this time, the Word of God should have changed their experiences so that they would know better—to have a clearer and **true view** of Jesus Mashiash as both “Lord” and “the Son of God” who rules even the waves.

By testing, which they failed, the faith of the disciples was still too weak to make a difference in how they responded to this current threat.

3. Further Doubt: Fuzzy view of Jesus 4:41

Interestingly, even after the storm was settled, they still were “filled with **great fear**” (41). The source of their fear, this *false view of Jesus*, still took hold in their hearts, because they still said:

“**Who** then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (41).

The response of the disciples even after their safety was assured shows the *deep-rooted* grip of these “choking weeds.” When the disciples asked, “Who then is this?” They were still relying on their fleshly mind and their earthly experiences to understand Jesus. So, the real “choking weeds” which replaced their faith with fear was not so much this “false view of Jesus” but the source of this falsehood. That which choked their faith was perhaps the Misguided Belief that said: “We can understand Jesus based on human experience.” But, because our experience and understand is irreparably limited by our *fleshly weakness* and even our own brokenness as sinners, we cannot “reason” the person of Jesus Mashiach. We can only base our faith on the Word of God.

So, our *misguided minds* of the flesh will always produce for ourselves *falsehoods* that will suffocate the truth and vitality of our faith. So, the falsehood “Jesus is just an unreliable, powerless teacher” is like any other “choking weed” that springs up from our fleshly mind:

- I can only rely on money in this world for true safety.
- My religion is the only truth that I must follow.
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Question:

Further Discovery:

Correcting Unbelief:

Matthew 23:

Sources of Unbelief:

1. Hypocrisy: Self-Standard. Preach but don't practice (23:3). Make selves unchanging basis of understanding.
2. (23:4): Abusive: Value power and the use of power to control others.
3. (23:5): Social Accountability not Spiritual: Fear of Man not Fear of God.
4. (23:6). Self-Honor. They have personal ambition that is sustained by fleshly religion. Seek Self-honor not the Sacrifice needed to honor God.

Replacing Unbelief:

- 1) (23:8). Brotherhood: do not elevate or honor anyone above the others.
- 2). (23:9). Loyalty- Fear God. God alone is honored and feared, not man.
- 3). (23:10). Teaching Authority. Mashiach alone has teaching authority. Teachers should not speak on own authority but only Word of God.

