

# The Relational Master

Following Jesus to  
live a life of love in  
all things



# Wednesday ~ Mark 4:35-41

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

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

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

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

# 'That day'

- Jesus addressed the large crowd from a boat
- He taught many parables
- He explained the parable of the sower and taught about the secrets of the Kingdom
- Towards evening Jesus said they should leave the crowd behind and cross the lake
- Other boats set off with them



# The Storm

- Expert sailors could not cope
- Jesus was sleeping
- Disciples accused Jesus (didn't ask for help)
- Jesus rebukes the wind/waves...
- ...then the disciples



Rembrandt, Storm on the Sea of Galilee (1633)

# Stages of training disciples

1. Through listening and observing
  - Jesus' wisdom and insight
  - His compassion on the outcast
  - His power to heal
  - His authority over demons
2. Through experience
  - What was Jesus' learning objective?
  - Mission statement of 3:14-15

# Faith: belief or trust?

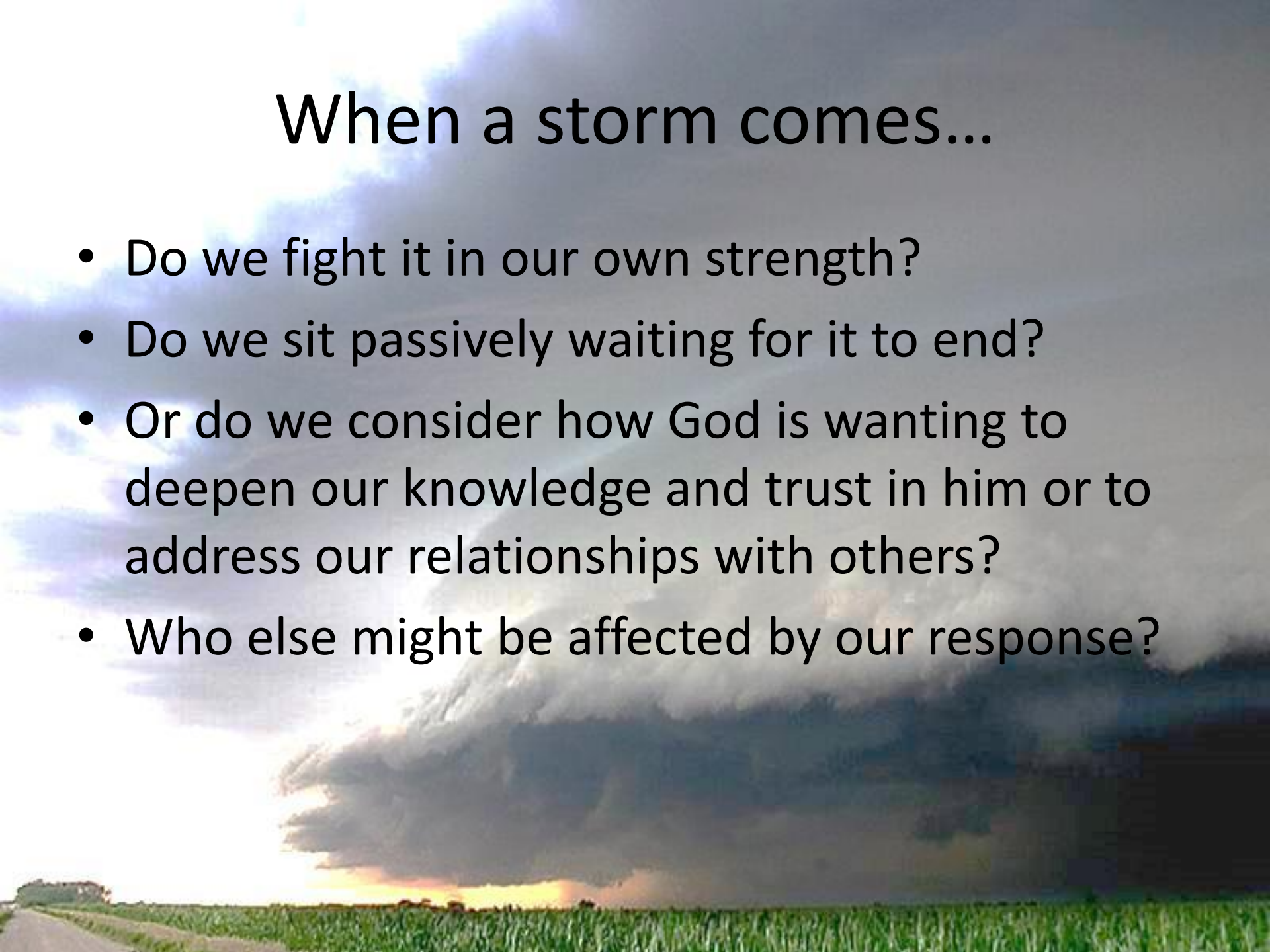
- Belief is cognitive; trust is relational
- Jesus: total confidence in his Father
- He wanted the disciples to know and trust him
- The storm brought them to the limit of their self-reliance and skill, and tested their knowledge of Jesus
- “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”





# When a storm comes...

- Do we fight it in our own strength?
- Do we sit passively waiting for it to end?
- Or do we consider how God is wanting to deepen our knowledge and trust in him or to address our relationships with others?
- Who else might be affected by our response?





# Points for discussion

- Where are you in Rembrandt's boat?
- Can you think of a time when things went really wrong, but the end result was that you knew Jesus better?
- What relational outcomes might God be looking for in any current struggles you are in?