The Gospel According to Mark Follow the Leader

"The Disciple's Ministry Prep, Part 1; Renouncing Fear"

INTRO: In today's passage, Jesus transitions His disciples from the classroom (4:1-34) into the "laboratory of life" where He begins testing their faith in preparation for future ministry.

- I. Jesus' disciples will be _____ (4:35-36). It is NOT a question of "if" God will test, but when. God's tests 1) arrive unannounced, 2) target our perceived strength, 3) employs all resources, even our Enemy, and 4) are purposed for our good.
- II. When _____, *immature* faith manifests in _____(4:37-39). *The disciples failed their first test because cowardly fear blocked their faith in Jesus.*
- III. Renounce _____ when ____: Jesus is sovereign over _____ (4:40-41). Faith (trust) in Jesus, even in the face of fear, is reasonable when we do three things.
 - A.

God never promised a life w/o trials; He promised to preserve our relationship **through** them (Cf. Luke 22:31-32; Rev. 2:10).

B.

God eternal presence is guaranteed to us in life (Cf. Matthew 28:20; John 14:16-17).

C.

The Creator has no power shortage (Cf. Col. 1:15-17).