

Compass Bearing #12
Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic
"Does God Care?"
Saturday, April 18, 2020
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The Gospels of Matthew and Mark tell a curious story about Jesus and his twelve disciples. They had just finished ministering to crowds of people, when they all got in a boat to go across the Sea of Galilee. That's when things turn bad.

Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat (Matt. 8:24). Mark's rendition adds this about the boat, that it was nearly swamped (Mark 4:37). A simple phrase could sum up the emotions of the disciples: sudden panic.

So what was Jesus doing? *Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion (Mark 4:38). The Son of God was catching some Z's while his devotees were struggling to stay alive.*

Have you ever wondered where God is in all these struggles? Why is God allowing this? Is He sleeping on the job? **Doesn't He care?**

*The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, **don't you care** if we drown?" (Mark 4:38)*

It's a valid question. For some social distancing has become social isolation. For some the economic shutdown has become an economic burden. For some this global pandemic has become a personal plague, leading to sickness and even death. Whether this is a life-altering experience, or simply an annoying nuisance, the question remains: Don't you care?

After Jesus was awakened, ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" (Mark 4:39-40).

Our question to Jesus: "Don't you care?"
Jesus' questions to us: *"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"*

Simply put, we say, "Don't you care?" and Jesus says, "Don't you trust?" When it seems like Jesus is asleep in the back of the boat, remember his power and authority never slumber. We can trust in him to see us through every storm of life.