Mark - Commentaries by James M. Freeman

Manners and Customs of the Bible, 737. Boat Cushion

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Mark 4:38. He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow.

This “pillow” () is supposed by critics to have been different from the soft pillow used for a headrest in houses. See note on Ezekiel 13:18 (#573). Such an article would hardly be in place in a fisherman’s boat. It was rather the cushion or fleece on which the rowers sat when they pulled the oars. “This use of for ‘cushion to sit upon,’ though rare, is found occasionally in even the purest classical writers” (Bloomfield).