

June 5, 2016

HE IS 'MIGHTY TO SAVE'

INTRODUCTION

There are many things in life that amaze me.

- Conception and the growth of a child in the mother's womb
- The Birth of a child (our first delivery...Me: wow! That was awesome!)
- The water cycle
- The human brain
- That there are people who actually believe in evolution

Have you ever noticed that everything in life requires some sort of power for it to function?

- Humans need water & food
- Cars need fuel (tractor example)
- Electronics need power
- Power needs energy

And where does the energy get energy? If you believe in evolution, then you have canceled out the source of power that started this whole thing... they are in constant search of another power.

Einstein died a disappointed man. He couldn't find the power – didn't believe in God

There are many things that man can do, but some things are impossible for man to achieve.

- Man cannot create the life giving source of water. We can't recreate it.
- Man can't control the weather. "Everyone's talking about the weather but no one's doing anything about it."

Frankly, we aren't amazed by much anymore... things I find incredible with technology, my boys find commonplace. Movies, special effects, etc. have made amazing things seem commonplace to us.

It seems hard to imagine, but the miracles began to seem commonplace to the disciples of Jesus. If it weren't so, then their response to the wind and seas obeying a simple command wouldn't have shocked them so.

All of the miracles leading up to the calming of the sea weren't personal to the disciples, except for Peter's mother-in-law.

Let's read the account in **Luke 8:22-25** (Matthew 8 and Mark 4)

Jesus Stills the Sea

- 22** Now on one of *those days* Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out.
- 23** But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they began to be swamped and to be in danger.
- 24** They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm.
- 25** And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?"

The story of Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee is more than a miracle intended to amaze His followers, however. It is about discipleship and faith. Without faith there can be no discipleship. Yet at this stage of their lives the disciples' faith was rudimentary at best.

Matthew 8

Discipleship Tested

- 18** Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side of the sea.
- 19** Then a scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."
- 20** Jesus *said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."
- 21** Another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."
- 22** But Jesus *said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."

1. TRUE BELIEVERS FOLLOW CHRIST NO MATTER THE COST (22)

A. The cost of discipleship

- i. Scribe couldn't commit (Matt. 8:18-22)
- ii. Disciple delays (Matt. 8:19-20)
- iii. Faith at work (Matt. 8:21-22) faith, just little faith
 1. Peter and Andrew 'left their nets and followed Him'
 2. James and John 'left their boat and father and followed Him'
 3. Matthew 'abandoned his tax collector's booth and followed Him'

B. Disciples were unaware of who they were following

- i. “It is not enough merely to be impressed with Jesus’ person and teachings or even to be amazed at His miracles. The vital thing is to actually follow Him.” - Boice

2. HIS PEOPLE RECOGNIZE HIS POWER (23-24; 25B)

A. No Ordinary Storm (23)

- i. Sleep Needed
 1. *Our Lord Jesus was man as well as God – He grew weary.*
 2. *Astounding to think about an all-powerful God who experienced weariness, temptation, hungered, thirsted, suffered pain, and sought rest in sleep.*
 3. *“For we do not have a great high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)*
 4. *Another comforting aspect to His weariness is that **being wearied and worn in doing God’s work is no sin, but being weary of working for God is most definitely sinful.** Jesus Himself was weary, and Jesus slept.*
- ii. Fierce Gale “descended”
 1. *Boat in danger*
 2. *Lives at risk*
 3. *Professional fisherman in fear of their lives*
 4. *Jesus remains calm - sleeps*
- iii. Disciples in despair
 1. *Most of these men were fishermen...they wouldn’t have sought the help of a carpenter unless they had some sort of faith He could possibly help them.*
 2. *Their faith in Jesus’ ability to save them in this type of storm was probably more on getting them out of their alive rather than stopping the storm altogether.*

B. Power of God Revealed (24)

- i. Mighty miracle by a Mighty God
 1. *Our Lord Jesus Christ, as God, shows His almighty power*
 2. *With one phrase He rebukes the sea (Mark) **“Hush, be still.”***
 3. *It needed the power of Him who brought the flood on the earth in the days of Noah, and in due season, took it away; who divided the Red Sea and the River Jordan into two parts, and made a path for His people through the waters.*

- ii. Instant results/**instant fear** (24b & 25b)
 1. *He spoke and the winds and the water obeyed Him. *This was the same voice that spoke them into being. With the Lord nothing is impossible.*
 2. *"As a man He had slept. As God He stilled the storm."*
- iii. Power engaged for us
 1. *It is a comforting thought that all this all mighty power of our Lord Jesus Christ is actively engaged on behalf of His people! He is' mighty to save!*
 2. *Even though we may be sorely harassed, we are not ignored...though cast down, we are not cast away... "You are from God little children, and have overcome them, because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world." (I John 4:4)*
 3. *We have the power of the One who can make the winds and waves cease in a moment. The true church shall never perish. "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me: because I live, you will live also." (John 14:19)*

3. EVEN THE FAITHFUL NEED MORE FAITH (25A)

- A. Their faith was too weak
 - i. **The point is not that they had faith, it was a little faith** (according to Matthew. No faith according to Mark) - It needed to become stronger.
 - ii. We can see here how needful it is for Christians to keep their faith ready for use.
 - iii. **Where was the benefit of trusting, if they were to trust their Master in sunshine only, but not in storms?**
- B. Our faith made stronger through afflictions
 - i. Afflictions teach us great lessons
 - ii. "Christ's service does not exempt His servants from storms." – J. C. Ryle
 - iii. God has never promised us no afflictions; afflictions teach us great lessons.
- C. We should thank God for the storms

4. THE LORD IS PATIENT WITH HIS PEOPLE

- A. Forgetting what we've learned
 - i. Disciples had forgotten the miracles, the teachings, the calling
- B. Focusing on our current setbacks
 - i. Disciples could see nothing but their present peril
 - ii. It is humbling, really, to think of what a poor creature man is, even at his best estate. "For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think

more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3)

C. The fear of God provides us His pity – we need His pity

- i. When the disciples realized that Jesus was God they feared Him
- ii. We must be thankful that He does not deal with believers according to their sins.
- iii. “As a father pitieth his children, even so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.”
Prov. 103:13

CONCLUSION

Are you a true disciple? Have you looked at the evidence?

People through the centuries have marveled at Jesus’ authority, His words, His works, His wisdom, His purity, His truthfulness, His power, His provision, His healing, His love, His dominance, His judgement, His composure, His teaching.

They’ve marveled, they’ve been overwhelmed, they’ve been astounded, but they’ve walked away as lost because they never came on His terms.

Listen to this in closing: Bishop Ryle said “The saddest road to hell is the one that runs under the pulpit, past the Bible, and through the middle of warnings and invitations.”

I hope you hear what the Spirit of God is saying.