



4/10/26

I just LOVE Isaiah 53, and on this week's episode of Chosen and Cherished we got to look in depth at the beauty of this fulfilled prophecy about Jesus. We often say at Summit Point, "Him for Me." After reading this prophecy, I pray that we will say, "So... Me for Him" (maybe you want to say it with more grammatical correctness 😊). If you'd like to hear the podcast, here's the link... <https://summitpoint.org/chosen-and-cherished/>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Mark 4:35-41

Over the years, as a biblical counselor, I've had the privilege of helping some women confess Jesus as Lord and be saved. Many who come to me have A ~ admitted they were a sinner, B ~ believed that Jesus rose from the dead to save them from their sins, but some have not yet C ~ confessed Jesus as Lord. It's so awesome to see God move in their hearts and enlighten them to the truth of salvation.

But for a few women, what has really grabbed hold of their hearts and brought them to Jesus was finally recognizing His AUTHORITY. Truly, none of what Jesus did for us would mean anything if He didn't have the authority to cover and forgive our sins. Jesus has authority over all creation because He is the Creator.

There was one situation in Mark 2 when Jesus healed a paralyzed man. But He shocked the religious leaders when He said, "Son, your sins are forgiven." It says in Mark 2:7, that the scribes were questioning IN THEIR HEARTS, not out loud... and saying to themselves, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Jesus perceived in His spirit what they were thinking and responded to their thoughts... Ummm... that had to freak them out. How did He know what they were thinking??? He said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may

know that the Son of Man has AUTHORITY on earth to forgive sins—He said to the paralytic— I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” AND HE STOOD UP!!! So... Jesus proved His authority to forgive... something that can't be seen... by doing something that CAN be seen.

Here, in Mark 4, Jesus proved His authority, not only to forgive sins and heal a man, but He proved His authority over the wind and the waves. NO ONE can do that BUT JESUS.

So... He had been teaching the crowds of people who were drawn to Him by the sea all day. It was now the end of the day and He told the disciples He wanted to cross over to the other side of the sea. They didn't know why, but He did. If I look ahead to chapter 5, I'll see that He had a plan to meet a Gentile man who was possessed by demons and set him free. I'm sure He didn't tell the disciples His plan partly because they wouldn't have understood. They thought He was there just for the Jews. But God so loved the WORLD that He gave His only Son.

So... Jesus dismissed the crowds and got into the boat. Other boats traveled with them. Maybe it was the paparazzi. Hahaha. People tend to like to be around famous people when they think they get something from it. I call it, "a brush with greatness." It makes them feel great about themselves by just being around the great one... until things go south, and then they try to cancel that great one... like when the disciples abandoned Him at His arrest and the crowds yelled, "Crucify Him." By His authority, Jesus allowed Himself to be crucified, but He did not remain in that grave. Praise Him!

Anyway... while they were traveling over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (which is more like a lake), there was a massive windstorm. Talk about sea sickness! It was so bad that the waves were crashing into the boat and filling it up with water. Several of these disciples were seasoned fishermen! They had experienced lots of storms in their lifetime. But this one was so bad.

The crazy thing is, Jesus was sleeping through it! He was in the stern of the boat sleeping on a cushion. After all, it had been a long day. He who from His throne does not sleep or slumber emptied Himself of His glory and became a man who got tired, though He remained without sin.

The disciples were freaking out! They woke Jesus up, screaming at Him, "Teacher! Don't You care that we're all gonna die???" Now... this is a very cool example of both faith and doubt... and God's patience and mercy. They had enough faith to know that Jesus was the answer to their problem, but not enough faith to trust that He would be able to fix the problem.

I could say, "Guys! Don't you remember how He healed the lame man just a short time ago? Don't You remember how He healed a man with a withered hand? Even on the Sabbath? Jesus has authority over the Sabbath! But if I point the finger at them, I have to point it right back at myself. How many times have I accused Jesus of being asleep and not caring? Honestly, I've accused Him of so much more. He is so merciful and patient!

I imagine with the wind blowing and the disciples yelling it had to be so loud in that boat! But Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind stopped and the sea calmed immediately. Wow. The noise went to a complete calm!

Jesus looked at the disciples and said, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" He could have said, "I'm done with you. You're just not getting it!" But He didn't. He was patient and merciful, and He calmed the storm.

Why did He even allow the storm? He's God. Couldn't He have just kept things calm for them? But God knew... every storm is an opportunity to grow our faith. At this moment, the disciples responded to Jesus' AUTHORITY over the wind and the waves by saying, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" I mean, I've seen Him heal people and that's awesome enough. I've seen Him speak with authority even to the religious leaders. But the wind and the sea? How much authority does this guy have??? Jesus displayed His authority over what we CAN see so that we could trust His authority over what we CAN'T see.

Well... even as God the Son asked, "Do you still have no faith?", He knew that their faith would grow. A few months later, Matthew 14 reports that they were on the Sea of Galilee again... this time without Jesus. He upped the anti. But He still came to their rescue and calmed the storm. And their response this time was, "Truly, You ARE the Son of God!"

Jesus came to serve us and to bring us salvation. But let me never think that He bows to me. He holds the universe together by the word of His power. He has ALL authority. And that's awesome. His authority means my security.

I pray that I will never again say, "Jesus, don't You care? Why are You sleeping?" I pray that He will be able to celebrate my faith in Him no matter what storms come up. O Lord, please help me to see every storm as one more opportunity to grow in faith and see Your deliverance. You "SURROUND me with shouts of deliverance" (Psalm 32:7). So when You say, "Peace, be still," let my heart rest in You and trust You... and bow to You. Amen.