

## **Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ** **What Manner of Man Is This**

Last time...a Summary of the Kingdom Parables

This time...a great tempest and an important question: “What manner of man is this?”

We will be in Mark 4, Luke 8, and Matt 8

### **Mark 4**

v35-36 And the same day...Let us pass over unto the other side:

With the Kingdom Parables and v34 in mind, Jesus’ day is not over.

In the afternoon, as the sun is making its way toward the horizon,

Jesus begins a journey with His disciples

This was a very busy day!

They are on the NW shore of Sea of Galilee...what is the other side?

Ch 5:1 also in Matt and Luke accounts

Gadarenes are on the east shore of the Sea of Galilee

[ Sea of Galilee 1 ]

It seems they made no preparations for the journey, they just went,

because Jesus got onboard and said, “Let’s go...(now).”

The fishing boat Jesus boarded sets off for the eastern shore of the Lake,

and is joined by a little armada

v37 arose a great storm of wind:

Suddenly, at some point in the journey, but clearly when the ship is in deep water,  
a great storm kicks up (great = “mega”)

The wind is creating waves that are flooding the ship and it is in danger of sinking

[ Sea of Galilee 2 ]

Given the location and topography of the Sea of Galilee

- 682 feet below sea level
- 6½ mi wide and 12 mi long
- surrounded by mountains
- cool marine air coming from Med Sea (afternoon)
- warm/hot air coming from the deserts to the east of the Sea (Jordan)

sudden storms were commonplace in this “bowl”

We witnessed such a storm crossing the Sea of Galilee on a boat on one of our tours to Israel

- sunny and warm
- cloudy and very windy
- some rain (although rain is not mentioned in this account)

[ Sea of Galilee 3 ]

v38    asleep on a pillow:

Where was Jesus when this storm kicked up?

Asleep

Jesus Christ is 100% Man, exhausted physically and mentally from

His arduous ministry schedule to do His Father's work

Ps 127:2        He giveth His beloved sleep

The interesting thing about His disciples is that nearly half of them are professional fishermen...very experienced in the commonplace sudden storms on the Sea of Galilee

But they were terrified, fearing death; this was no commonplace storm.

This storm was threatening the lives of the disciples and their Master

So...what was the nature of this great storm of wind?

Eph 2:2        Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience

Satan, the murderer from the beginning (John 8:44), is attempting to murder the Seed of the Woman and His disciples

v39    rebuked...a great calm:

Rousted by His overwhelmed and panicked disciples who need His help, Jesus

- gets up
- rebuked the wind...i.e. the prince of the power of the air (ala Jude 9)
- spoke to the sea..."Peace/Silence! Be still (muzzled)"

And...the wind and the sea obeyed...

and the Sea of Galilee was immediately the "sea of tranquility"

v40 fearful...no faith:

Then the Lord rebukes His disciples for their fear and no faith  
They have witnessed Jesus performing many miracles –  
    healings, casting out demons (including dumb), raising the dead  
They have heard Jesus forgive the sins of men, something only God can do  
They have heard all He has taught for nearly 2 years  
This day they heard the teaching of the Kingdom Parables and said they  
    understood (v34 with Matt 13:52)

Yet still required: faith...as the mystery of Christ is being revealed  
Fear is “faithless”, anti-faith

What did Jesus say in v35?

Let us...pass over to the other side

Not, Let us get halfway and sink/go under

He rebukes their absence of faith that He will do what He said He would do;  
they were in no danger since He was with them

Are we not like those in the boat with Jesus when a sudden violent storm surprises us and we are overwhelmed/panicked?

- death of a loved one
- being served divorce papers
- financial crisis: losing a job (laid off or fired), “surprise”
- a house fire, flood, tornado, etc “act of God”
- health crisis: heart attack, cancer...
- (anymore) if your candidate is not elected and the threat of civil war

“Lord! Wake up!

How can You sleep at a time like this?

Do something!

Do You not care that this is killing me?!"

Fear not, have faith in the Lord

We have the promises of the God who cannot fail and cannot lie

2 Tim 1:7

Ps 46:1      God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in  
trouble

Ps 46:10      Be still, and know that I *am* God

Requires...faith, properly placed faith (in Jesus vs in Self or man or world)

v41     What manner of man is this:

The disciples knew they had just witnessed another miracle, a mind-bending display of the power by Jesus: the winds and the seas obeyed Him!

Who has control over the creation, physical and spiritual?

Only the Creator

Who is Jesus?

Jesus is 100% God

Jesus Christ is 100% God AND 100% Man...the mystery of Christ

The teachings of the Kingdom Parables and this miracle are definitely connected, revealing the mystery of the Christ, the King

It was given unto them to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God... and its King (Ps 2)

Jesus knew when He got into the boat that “a storm was brewing”

He allows it...the storm was useful in His revelation of Himself to His disciples

Thus...“Let’s go...(now)”...without human preparation

So the disciples feared again...but this was awe, not timidity

The awe-some presence of Jesus in the sudden great calm surpassed the presence of Jesus in the sudden storm...for the calm displayed His great power

Yet they do not yet understand Who their Master is...

What manner of man is this?

Let’s look at a parallel passage in Luke 8

## **Luke 8**

v22-23   came down...filled...in jeopardy:

In this account,

- the storm of wind came down...from mountain and sea level down into the “bowl” [ Sea of Galilee 2 ]
- the boat was filling with water...faster than the bucket brigade could bail it out
- they were in jeopardy/peril/danger...of sinking and drowning

This is not an “act of God” (as the insurance industry says), it is attempted murder (Eph 2:2)

v24-25 Master, Master...raging...wondered:

The desperation and fear (near hysteria) of the disciples can be heard in their  
“Master, Master”

The water of the Sea is described as raging...violent “surge” like the storm surge  
caused by a hurricane

After Jesus calmed the winds and the sea, He wants to calm the hearts of His  
disciples...peace that comes only by faith

They wondered, were amazed at the power their Master had just displayed

The disciples “wonder” about so much regarding Jesus Christ  
(Is 9:6)

Jesus wonders only at the lack of faith of His people in Him...  
even after all He has said and done in their very presence  
(Mark 6:6, Matt 8:10)

Now let's get the other pieces of this event in Matt 8

### **Matt 8**

v23-24 a great tempest...covered with the waves:

Out on the sea in deep water, a “seismos” hits the boat, waves crashing over it,  
threatening to destroy it and kill those onboard  
(Seismograph, etc)

v25-27 Lord, save us...little faith...great calm:

The professional fishermen and the other disciples are overwhelmed with fear  
as their boat is being pummeled by the waves

They cry out to Jesus to save them, deliver them from this life-threatening storm

“Why are you fearful (You have nothing to fear), o you of little faith  
(such little confidence in Me)?”

Notice: Jesus rebuked His disciples BEFORE He rebuked the winds and  
the sea

Then...What manner of man is this!

They should have known...for God had told them in advance

Ps 107:21-31 they were themselves the fulfillment of Scripture!

Their question is of paramount importance to every man...  
What manner of man is Jesus?

- Like them  
100% man  
Hunger...thirst...weariness/exhaustion  
Physical, tangible (Phil 2:5-8, John 1:14. 1 John 1:1)  
If wounded, He bled
- Radically different than them  
100% God  
Creator (John 1:1-3, Col 1:15-17, Heb 1:1-3, 8-9)  
Knows the hearts of men  
Lawgiver  
LORD God Almighty  
I AM  
Without sin (Heb 4:15, Is 59:1)

The mystery of Christ being revealed

### **Application**

The storms of life

Jesus Christ can still any storm we face!

Even if the boat is full of water, being tossed around violently, and (seemingly) in danger of sinking!

The prince of the power of the air is still trying to kill Jesus' disciples

Violent storms (weather)

Violent storms of life

Air waves...Media

The devil is but a tool in the hands of the Creator...and must obey the Lord

Sudden, great storms are allowed by God to test and grow our faith in Him.

Will we cry out to Him or to man and the world?

In the storm we learn to trust Jesus

The awe-some presence of Jesus in the sudden great calm surpasses the presence of Jesus in the sudden storm...for the calm displays His great power

In the great calm we learn that Jesus is our strength, peace, fortress, life...

[ Brain wasting forces ]

Faith rests...fear (the absence of faith) freaks out  
We have hope...the certainty of faith...that allows us to rest in Jesus  
We have no reason to panic or be hysterical – God is in control always

We have nothing to fear...He said Heb 13:5b  
He will not take us half way and leave it to us to “get home”  
He said “over to the other side”, not “under halfway there”

Therefore, the safest place on earth to be is with Jesus, wherever He is, even if He is in a  
great tempest

Small group prayer  
Closing song