



THE GOSPEL OF JESUS WHAT THE SON OF GOD DID

I believe in Jesus, creator of Heaven and Earth Matthew 8:23-27

Who is Jesus? Matthew takes 28 chapters to unpack this question. Mark takes 16. Luke needs 24 and John uses 21. John admits that if all the events of Jesus were recorded, the world could not contain the books (Jn 21:25). John also explains that his gospel was written in order to challenge people to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God, and one with God. This is an important distinction. The common understanding back then of Messiah was too small for Jesus. It is true that Jesus is the Messiah, but He is more than that. He is the one who created the heavens and the earth.

Matthew begins with a genealogy connecting Jesus to King David, Mark begins with a prophecy from Isaiah predicting the coming of the Messiah, Luke begins with angelic visitations to unsuspecting people, but John begins with the clearest and boldest statement of all four gospels: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made (John 1:1-3)."

Other New Testament writers share this opinion about Jesus. To the church in Colossi, Paul describes the Jesus they worship as "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Col 1:15-17). The writer of Hebrews describes Jesus as the "appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Hebrews 1:2-3).

Who is Jesus? He is a teacher, a loyal friend, a prophet, and someone who came to upset the religious establishment, but what we learn from Matthew 8:23-27 is that Jesus also has complete authority over creation. This powerful truth caught the disciples by surprise.

The disciples got in the boat with Jesus to cross over the sea of Galilee and were caught by a terrible storm. Jesus had been performing miracles and teaching the people of the region, but for whatever reason the disciples considered the storm to be outside of Jesus's power and domain. It is true that they reached out to Jesus in their moment of distress and asked Him to save them, but Jesus does not commend them for turning to Him and believing He could do something. Instead, Jesus discerns a lack of faith in their request. Maybe because Jesus could hear it in their voices, and surely because He can discern it in their hearts, He first rebukes them and then speaks to the storm.

Jesus's words created immediate peace on the sea. After all, He made the sea and everything in it. He is the one who allows the winds to blow and the rain to fall. There is nothing that has been made outside of the fact He spoke it into existence. When the disciples see how the storm responded to the words of Jesus, they were amazed and asked one another, "What kind of man is this?"

Who is Jesus? According to the story, He is the creator of the heavens and the earth. When we go to Jesus with the struggles of life, we need to remember that He not only can sympathize with our struggle but has complete authority and power over everything. That is why it is important to remember that Jesus is more than a friend, or a counselor, or a good teacher. There are times and circumstances in life when all of our earthly support is inadequate for the difficulties we face, and this story reminds us that in those moments, Jesus is more than capable to provide peace and safety.

Discussion

1. It is important for us to be genuine with our faith, but be prepared to hear from Jesus that our faith has room to grow. Why do you think the disciples exhibited little faith here?
2. What problems or difficulties do you believe Jesus can take care of and what areas in your life do you believe Jesus does not have enough power or authority? To discern the answer for this, it might be helpful to ask, "When do I become fearful, anxious or doubtful?"
3. How has this particular lesson encouraged, strengthened, confronted or challenged you?

Our Corporate Prayer

*Heavenly Father,
My faith is in you,
My hope is from you,
My love is focused on you.*

*Help me to place my confidence in you,
to accept your Word,
to submit to your will,
to rely on your promises,
to trust your sovereignty.*

*Let my hope be found in the peace you provide,
knowing that my present and my future rest in nail-pierced hands.*

*You are good, wise, holy, and just.
And no mistake is possible for you.
I believe this, but when I struggle to believe this, help my unbelief.*

*In Jesus's name I ask this,
Amen*