

Faith in the Home, Sermon Notes and Applications for the Home

Mark 4:35-41, "Our Help is in the Name of The Lord, Who Made Heaven and Earth"

If I asked you to imagine a person flying, lifting a car, or running faster than the eye can see, you could probably do so with no problem at all. Thanks to Hollywood producing numerous amounts of superhero movies, images of heroes defying natural law have become common place on our screens. But if I asked you have seen any miraculous superhuman feats that defy nature in real life, what would you say? I know what I would say. I would say, "No, I have never seen anyone do anything that defies nature, but I have read about them in the Bible."

The Bible is not a tabloid, and Jesus certainly is not a comic book hero created to entertain youth, (and then still entertain adults). The accounts in there were witnessed and divinely inspired by God. So then, if I were to ask you to imagine, if you can, being in the presence of Jesus and His disciples when He told them to get into a boat at the Sea of Galilee. It was in the evening, and about 30 miles northeast of the sea we would be on sits Mt. Hermon towering over us with a peak at 9,200 feet. The setting sun in the west would probably provide a beautiful view as it's light reflected of that mountain.

Now, the sea sits at about 700 feet below Sea Level. This means that the air is usually warm. So, perhaps we are having a pleasurable cruise as our boat sets off into the setting sun. But then we look at some of the professional fishermen that Jesus called to follow them. We see that Peter and Andrew are a little tense, and we wonder why. So, then we look for James and John, and we see them preparing the ship to take on a wind storm! YIKES! Now it is important to note that the westerly winds that blow off of Mt. Harmon into the warm air over the Sea of Galilee can produce very sudden and violent storms. And before we can even fully comprehend what the fishermen are doing, the wind begins to whip with a striking cold against our faces as we feel the sea water spray on us, and many of us are already sick with the motion of the waves. We are completely miserable wanting nothing more than get onto dry land. But of course, it gets worse.

The waves crashing into the boat are now spilling water over the sides and the ship is filling up. While it may at least wash away the vomit induced by sea sickness, we are now afraid for our lives along with being sick. You think, "Could this be it?" Oh, and "where is Jesus?" you shout! Someone shouts back to you. In the commotion and the sounds of the wind and wave, you think you heard him say, "someone is trying to wake Him!" In a moment you see everyone turn to look in one direction, so you look in that same direction and you see Him, Jesus is on the deck! He lifts His hands and shouts, "Peace!" "Be still!" The winds cease at His command and the waves are calmed. It is so still it is hard to imagine that you were just in a storm. But then as you look back upon Jesus a sense of great awe comes over you and your body shudders in fear as the realization of who Jesus must be "that even the wind and sea obey Him." All you can do is prostrate and your body and bow your head toward Him, as praises leave your mouth.

Okay, so I admit there was some conjecture in that story, but it was done to try to get you to think with awe and wonder of this testimony of the disciples. They were on that boat when Jesus

calmed the storm with just words. How can someone do that? If the creation itself obeys Jesus, then Jesus must be the author of creation. He must have been there when the Father and the Holy Spirit as creation was made out of nothing and formed with just the Word of God.

Jesus is the Word of God, incarnate, meaning made into the flesh of man. He became man not to just demonstrate His divine power to show off you He was. But He did so to save us from our sin. It took a divine sacrifice to forgive our sins before God. God Himself sacrificed Himself so that we could live. Then if calming the storm wasn't miracle enough by Jesus, on the third day He rose again from the dead. What do we have to fear?

That leads us to the application of this text. The disciples who were afraid of drowning a moment earlier, were then "were filled with a great fear," in the presence of Jesus. Awe, respect, reverence, and yes, even fear. We are sinners, and we should realize that as sinners, forgiven or not, Jesus' divine presence would cause to tremble because He is holy and almighty. Yet, He is for us. "If He is for us, who can stand against us?" If we put our fear, trust, and faith in Jesus, then we are set free to put aside everything else that causes us fear. "Our Help is in the Name of The Lord, Who Made Heaven and Earth." Amen.