

Who is this Man Jesus?


Part 7

The Crossing

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.


Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- Do the following verses comfort or disturb you, and **why**?
Job 42:2; Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 14:27; 43:13; 46:10; and Daniel 4:35
- List all the sorts of weather referred to in Job 37:3, 6, 10-13 and Jeremiah 10:13.
Who is responsible for all these weather conditions? How is that comforting? How is it frightening?

Why do we **like** saying, "Jesus **calmed** the storm", but not, "Jesus **caused** the storm"?

List all the good that this storm event produced in the disciples' lives. List any harm it produced.

- Read Mark 4:39-41. On the following scale, mark the disciples' relative level of fear...
...at the storm (v. 40) 
...and at Jesus (v. 41)

How do you explain this?

Is it right to fear God? Why or why not?

- Relate Romans 8:35-39 and 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 to the coronavirus. What do you learn?

How do these truths comfort you?

Creating "God Space": "God Space" is where cynics, skeptics, and spiritually curious people can safely raise their questions, reservations, & doubts because we have listened well and demonstrated love in practical, authentic ways.

Many of our neighbors are **terrified** by the coronavirus.

From what you've learned today,
how can you comfort them?

Need to know the God who walks on water?

Write to:

BiblicalHopeAndHelp@gmail.com

Application-Challenge

- Draw upon Jesus' inexhaustible resources.
- Feed on Jesus daily by reading his Word; discover his tender and wonderful counsel.
- Enjoy fellowship with Jesus. He wants to spend time with you. He wants to reveal himself to you.

Sermon Summary

Key Text: John 6:14-25

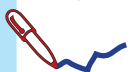
We are looking at the miracles recorded in the gospel of John in an attempt to better understand who Jesus is. John says that these miracles reveal his great power and identity. In John 6:14-25, we see the disciples caught up in a violent storm. This miracle demonstrates (1) Jesus' infinite, uncontrollable power, (2) his wonderful counsel, and (3) his costly salvation.

[1] Jesus' power is uncontrollable. Jesus has just miraculously fed 5,000. Jews would have immediately connected this with Moses miraculously feeding a multitude in the wilderness. Moses was their greatest leader, and so they wanted to make Jesus king (John 6:14-15). Jesus' primary purpose in coming was not to deal with Israel's economic, political, and social problems. All these problems derive from one problem: alienation from God. Jesus said: "I'm the bread of life; my body is going to be broken to pay for sins, so that you can be reconciled to God and to one another." But the crowds thought: "He solved the food problem—he can solve the Rome problem!" Jesus wanted them to know that they couldn't control him like that—so he called up a storm! Storms, especially over water, are among the most chaotic, terrifying situations. John reported that Jesus casually came strolling across the lake in the midst of this intense storm. Amid this chaos, here comes Jesus strolling along. "Hey guys, what's up? Mind if I join you?" Jesus got in the boat and immediately it was at land! Jesus not only fed people as Moses did, he also showed his power over water (see Psalm 77:13-19). Jesus was saying, "I'm greater than Moses! I'm the one who parted the Red Sea for Moses! I am the infinite, uncontrollable force. I'm the untamed Lord of the universe!" We try to control God in subtle ways: "God if you will fix my marriage/my cancer/my life, I'll start going to church/read my Bible/put money in the offering plate!" In other words, "God, I'll serve you if you/as long as you (fill in the blank)." But whatever comes after the "if," or the "as long as," is your god—and for you, God is just a means to an end. But Jesus is an infinite, uncontrollable force.

[2] Jesus' counsel is tender and wonderful. Remember—Jesus' miracles are never simply displays of power. They are ways that he lovingly ministers to hurting people. Jesus saw the disciples struggling in the storm, and he wants to be our refuge in the midst of our storms. Jesus comes to his disciples in their time of need, and he is tender with them. He doesn't say, "Why didn't you check the weather report?" Instead, he says, "Don't be afraid. I'm with you now. I've got this!" When we combine (1) Jesus' infinite, uncontrollable power, with (2) his wonderful, tender counsel, think of how that can comfort you! But there are two storm stories in the New Testament. One time Jesus speaks, and the storm goes away. The other time he doesn't stop it, he brings them through it. Sometimes, Jesus helps you in a storm by taking it away. Other times, he walks through the storm with you. Either way, you have access to his infinite power and tender counsel!

[3] Jesus' divine fellowship is available. The disciples were frightened by the storm, but they were terrified when they thought Jesus was a ghost (Matthew 14:26-27)! But Jesus said, "I am; do not be afraid." (John 6:20). This is a claim to be Yahweh, the God of the Old Testament (Exodus 3:14). "I am God, do not be afraid. I am going to get in the boat with you and bring you safely through this storm. I want to protect you. I want to have fellowship with you, despite your sin and unworthiness." That thought is both comforting and frightening, isn't it? God who knows everything about you—your secret thoughts and secret sins, your virtues and your vices, he wants to draw close to you in the time of your greatest need. In Jesus, holiness and grace meet. And he died on the cross to make fellowship with God possible. He has already met your greatest need—forgiveness of sin. If he loved you enough to die for you, surely he loves you enough to meet you in the storms of life.

Take One Step: What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage. We can use it to explore God's love, power and wisdom in the "storms of life"...*

Monday—Read Romans 5:6-10. Imagine if God were powerful and wise, but **not** loving...

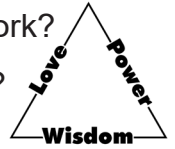
Tuesday— Read Ephesians 3:20-21. Imagine if God were loving and wise, but **not** powerful...

Wednesday— Read Romans 11:33-36. Imagine if God were loving and powerful, but **not** wise...

Thursday— Read Romans 8:26-30. How do you see love, power and wisdom at work?

Friday— Read Romans 8:31-39. How do you see love, power and wisdom at work?

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study John 9:1–7, 35–38.



Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) is it found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text?