

The Ruler of the Waves.

A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"
Mark 4:37-40

We need to know more about Christ. It is good to be familiar with all the doctrines and principles of Christianity. But is better to be acquainted with Christ Himself.

Should not the sheep be familiar with the Shepherd?

Should not the patient be familiar with his doctor?

Should not the bride be familiar with her bridegroom?

Should not the sinner be familiar with the Savior?

What can we learn from the verses of Scripture we just read?

Jesus is crossing the lake of Galilee in a boat with His disciples.

A sudden storm arises while He is asleep.

The waves beat into the boat and fill it.

Death seems close at hand.

The frightened disciples awake their Master and cry for help.

He arises and rebukes the wind.

He mildly reproves the faithless fears of His companions and all is over.

What can we learn from these verses about the Lord Jesus?

1. **First of all we learn that Following Christ will not prevent problems and troubles.**

They are in the middle of a big storm and the fear of death comes upon them. Perhaps they had expected that serving the Lord would prevent them from having troubles and trials. Perhaps they thought that Jesus Christ would not allow His servants to suffer here on earth.

So we need to understand that serving Christ does not exempt you and I from the troubles of this world.

As a believer you must be ready for your share of sickness, pain, sorrow, fear, losses and crosses, deaths, suffering, separations, and disappointments as long as you are here on earth. The believers in Aceh and Nias also suffered death and loss during the Tsunami attacks along with the unbelievers. There is no promise in the Bible that following Jesus Christ is going to make you healthy, wealthy and safe from all troubles.

As a Pastor I have the privilege of being one of Christ's ambassadors. In His Name is offer eternal life to all men, women, boys and girls who want to repent from sin and believe in the Lord Jesus. In His name I offer pardon, peace, grace, and glory to any one who is willing to make a commitment to Jesus Christ. But I dare not offer any one prosperity as a part of the Gospel. I dare not offer him or her long life, increased income and freedom from pain.

The disciples were caught in a storm and so you and I are going to experience storms in our lives. I dare not offer the unemployed employment and plenty of money. But I can guarantee that Christ will supply all your needs as He has promised in Philippians 4:19.

II. We can also learn that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly Man.

We are told that the Lord Jesus was asleep in the stern of the ship on a pillow. He was weary and tired. He had preached and healed all day as recorded in Mark chapter 4. He was exhausted. Jesus Christ was indeed a Man. He was equal to the God the Father in everything but He was also like man with the exception of sin. He was hungry and thirsty, tired, sad and even wept certain times. This is a comfort to us as believers. He is a powerful Savior but also a sympathizing Savior. He loves and cares for you. Almighty God and deepest sympathy are met together in one glorious Person, Jesus Christ.

Are you poor and needy? So also was Jesus. He had no permanent home here on earth.

^{MT 8:20} Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and **birds of the air** have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

Are you alone in the world and neglected by those who ought to love you? So also was Jesus.

^{John 1:11} He came to that which was his own, but his own **did not receive him**.

Are you misunderstood, misrepresented, slandered and persecuted?

So also was Jesus He was called a madman, a devil, and a friend of sinners. False charges were laid against Him. He was condemned to die even though not guilty of any wrong.

Does Satan tempt you and offer terrible suggestions to your mind? So also did he tempt Jesus.

Do you ever feel a conflict in your mind, like God has left you? So did Jesus. Who can measure the depth of His pain when Jesus Cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*"--which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46.

III. In the third place we learn that there may be much weakness and trials in a true Christian.

They awoke Jesus in haste and cried out Master don't you care that we drown?

There was impatience. They might have waited till Jesus woke up.

There was unbelief. They forgot that the almighty One was with them in the boat. They cried out, "We perish!"

There was distrust. They talked like they doubted the Lord's care for their safety and well-being.

Poor faithless men! They had no business to be afraid. They had seen His power. They had witnessed His care, love and kindness to thousands of people.

There is no reason for us to be afraid and worried. The Lord Jesus is with us. He has promised to never leave nor forsake us. Yet we do worry, have fear and lack faith.

IV. Forthly we learn of the The Power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The waves were breaking into the ship where Jesus was. The terrified disciples awoke Him and cried for help. We read that He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" At once the wind ceased and the waves were no more. This was power!

We must have a clear view of the power of the Lord Jesus. His power to save all who come to Him. His power to forgive sins to all who repent. His power to give eternal life. His power to heal the sick. His power to raise the dead. His power to answer prayers. His power to comfort those who suffer. His power to provide all we need. His power to lead those who come to Him for guidance and direction. He is the Mediator, The great Physician, the Good Shepherd, the Redeemer, The Lord of lords and the King of kings.

V. Finally we learn, How tenderly and patiently the Lord Jesus deals with weak believers.

He could have rebuked them sharply for their cowardness and mistrust. But there was no anger in the Lord's words. He simply asked two questions.

“Why are you so afraid? How is it that you have no faith?”

His attitude shows His compassion and patience with His disciples. We see the Lord's behavior towards His disciples for the 3 ½ years He was with them.

Often they doubted, slow to learn, full of unbelief, they ran when the Lord was arrested, they did not understand His teaching.

What do we see in Jesus when dealing with His disciples?

Unchanging pity, compassion, kindness, gentleness, patience, goodness and love.

He does not throw them out for their stupidity.
He does not reject them for unbelief.
He does not dismiss them for their cowardness.
He does not even give up hope on them when they deny Him.
He leads them on step by step.
He loves them dearly.
He teaches them slowly using illustrations and examples.
He sends kind messages as soon as He is risen from the dead.
He restores Peter to fellowship and to his position as an apostle.
He commissions them to go as His representatives and preach the Gospel everywhere and to all people, worldwide.
He blesses them and promises to be with them everywhere they go.

The Lord Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He deals with you and I the same way He dealt with His disciples.

We have a wonderful Savior.

Let us love Him, commit to Him and serve Him. Praise His wonderful Name!