

★ Even the Winds and the Sea Obey

4th - 6th Grade
Lesson 1

The Majesty of Christ

This story is about the Sea of Galilee. Jesus performed a great miracle there! We have learned about many of Jesus' miracles. In this story, the wind and the sea obeyed Jesus. Can you imagine someone telling the wind what to do? What kind of person do you think could do this? When Jesus did these amazing miracles, He showed others His majesty!

What Manner of Man Is This?

And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep. And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

—Matthew 8:23-27

In this story, the disciples went on a ship with Jesus. They were sailing on the Sea of Galilee. A storm came while they were on the ship. The waves from the Sea of Galilee were coming into the ship! Have you ever seen waves before? Sometimes they are very big! The disciples were very scared by this storm and the big waves.

Jesus was sleeping during the storm. He was not afraid. The disciples woke Jesus up and asked Him to save them. The disciples thought they were going to die! The Bible tells us that Jesus rebuked the winds and the sea. That means He stopped them! The disciples were amazed! They wondered what kind of man Jesus was. What kind of man do you think could stop the wind and the sea? We should wonder a few other things about this story too.

What Manner of Storm?

Have you ever been in a storm? Sometimes in the Midwest, there are tornado storms. Maybe you live near the ocean where there are hurricanes. Some places have snowstorms in the wintertime. There are many kinds of storms, and they can all be very scary. The story about Jesus calming the storm on the Sea of Galilee is in the Bible four times. Each time, the Bible describes the storm in a different way. In Matthew 8:24 it says it was a great tempest. In Mark 4:37, it says that there was a great storm of wind. Have you ever been outside on a windy day? Sometimes the wind feels like it could blow you away! It must have been very windy there on the Sea of Galilee that day. The Bible also tells us that there were great waves. (Luke 8:24) Each time the Bible talks about the storm, it uses the word *great*. Sometimes great means good. But, in these verses, great means big.

What Manner of Disciples?

Some of the disciples were sailors. They were used to being on the water. Even though they were used to the water, they were scared of this storm. These men had traveled with Jesus for many months. They had seen Him do many miracles. Even though Jesus, Who had done these miracles, was in the boat with them, they were still afraid. They forgot about everything Jesus had done. They had given up a lot to follow Jesus. But even though they were following Jesus, they were very afraid of the storm. They were not considering that Jesus was with them the whole time. They were only focusing on the storm.

The disciples were afraid for their lives instead of trusting Jesus. Sometimes we act the same way. The Bible tells us in Hebrews 11:6 that if we do not have faith, we cannot please God. Jesus asked the disciples why they had so little faith that He would take care of them. (Matthew 8:26) Faith is trusting God. We need to trust God in everything!

What Manner of Man?

Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

—I Chronicles 29:11

We learned in an earlier lesson that Jesus is God's Son. He was man, but He was also God. God created everything a very long time ago, including the wind and the sea! Because Jesus was God, He was the Creator of the wind and the sea. So when Jesus commanded the wind and the waves to "be still" (Mark 4:39), they stilled right away! Jesus showed His majesty as God when He stopped the wind and the sea. The same Jesus who stopped the wind and the sea takes care of you everyday. It is amazing that we have a God Who is so powerful, yet He still takes care of us!

Conclusion: What Manner of Person Are You?

We learned in this story that because Jesus is the Son of God, He can stop the wind and the sea! As we think about this story, let's consider what kind of people we are. The disciples became fearful because they forgot about everything Jesus had done up to that point. If they had considered all He had already done, they would not have been fearful. We can show God that we have not forgotten His wonderful works by praising Him everyday! Psalm 107:8 says, "Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" We should thank Him for everything He has done for us! The storm scared the disciples because they did not have faith in Jesus. We should trust God in everything we go through. God is more powerful than anything that may happen to us in life, and He promises that He will always take care of us. Let us try to be the manner of people who will always trust Him and praise Him for all He has done for us.