



What Manner of Man

Mark 4:41 -- And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? [KJV]

Introduction

1. Some times the small incidences that occur in our lives are often parables or epitaphs of our entire lives. The fact that the disciples were mostly fishermen is their precursor to becoming "fishers of men." The fact that Jesus was a carpenter foreshadowed His destiny to build His church.
2. The disciples had come to know what sort of teacher that Jesus was, but like so many of us, it did not occur to them just who they were associating with until they actually encounter a storm when He is with them.

A. The Manner of Teacher

1. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that Jesus was a phenomenal teacher. This is not just the disciples' conclusion (they addressed Him as "Master"), but the conclusion of those who were opposed to Him and threatened by Him.
2. He knew His subject. He knew His audience. He could handle any question they had, and do it with such ingenuity, that even when it was a trap, He trapped them.

John 7:45-46 -- The officers therefore came to the chief priests and Pharisees, and they said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "Never did a man speak the way this man speaks."

John 3:1-2 -- Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; this man came to Him by night, and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Matthew 22:46 -- And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.

B. The Manner of Man

1. Before the following incident, Jesus was engaged in His usual brilliance of teaching. His audience heard the parable of the Sower, the lamp that was not to be hidden, and the picture of the kingdom of God being like a mustard seed.
2. Like Nicodemus, His disciples knew He was a teacher come from God. But they were not prepared to think of Him as anything greater. What they will soon discover about the man they have been keeping close company with will absolutely terrify them.
3. There are also some things we can all discover when we travel along with these disciples as we observe the Lord showing us how to deal with the unexpected things in this life.

a. Jesus invites us to travel with Him.

Mark 4:35-41 -- And on that day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side."

v. 36. *And leaving the multitude, they took Him along with them, just as He was, in the boat; and other boats were with Him.*

1. Jesus planned ahead. He always had a destination and a way to get there.
2. He always welcomed His closest followers to come with Him.
3. Even when He was tired, He is always there to answer questions and to help.

b. Jesus is a friend who is with us in all of life's storms.

v. 37. *And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.*

v. 38. *And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"*

1. All who accept the Lord's invitation to travel will arrive safely. He was with Jonah even in his rebellion. He was with Paul when others failed to heed the storm warnings and their ship was wrecked.
2. He is with His disciples even in this storm. It appears also that they merely expected Him to help with handling the ship. What He does do for them seems to be way above their expectations and previous evaluation of Him.

c. The Lord is up to any occasion.

v. 39. *And being aroused, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.*

v. 40. *And He said to them, "Why are you so timid? How is it that you have no faith?"*

1. The change in the circumstances is radical. From a howling wind and chopping seas, to a dead calm and flattened sea. Even the swells ceased, though they should have remained as an after effect.
2. The disciples' question now betrays their previous conception of their Master. Evidently they had not expected that He could do such things and was far greater than they had imagined.

v. 41. *And they became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"*

C. What Manner of Men Are We?

1. Do we also as disciples of Christ often think far less of our Lord than we should.

2 Corinthians 9:8 -- And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.

2. Do we not fully understand all that He is capable of in order to help us with the troubles, problems, and storms of our lives?

Ephesians 3:20-21 -- Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever.

3. Could we too be accused of being timid when faced with our destiny as Christians and the stewardship God has put before us?

2 Timothy 1:7 -- For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.

4. Are we also faithless, not trusting in our Lord to be there for us in all trials and circumstance?

2 Timothy 2:13 -- If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.