

“What Manner of Man is Jesus” Mark 4:41
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In the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Mark, we read how Jesus calms the storm for his disciples and demonstrates he is the Lord of human beings and of nature—the Lord of all of Creation (Mark 4:35-41). He commands the elements, and they obey. The lesson is simple and straightforward. As Christ followers, we believe that Jesus stilled a real storm with a word of command. The disciples ask themselves, “What manner of man is Jesus, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

I offer you two things to consider about this account in Scripture. First, the Gospels show us a supernatural Christ. In this particular passage, Jesus speaks to the storm, “Peace, be still,” (Mark 4:39) as if it were the fever that Peter’s mother-in-law had and that Jesus healed (Mark 1:31). He treats the storm, in fact, as he treats the demons that he drives out of human lives that they have invaded (Mark 1:25; 5:8). In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has dealt the powers of evil a decisive blow. The universe is restored to God, its rightful owner. Jesus can still a disordered and turbulent life just as he quiets the wind and the waves. If we can but trust God with our life storms, would that not allow our minds more calm and peace that we desperately need?

Second, Jesus, asleep on a pillow in the boat, was far more concerned with what was going on than it appeared to the scared and anxious disciples. It appeared to the disciples that he didn’t care about their situation—“Don’t you care that we perish?” (Mark 4:38). It is easy to put ourselves in the disciples’ place. The Christian faith and the Church of Christ can seem pointless, having little to do with the realities of our stormy world. I think it is a special vice of “enlightened” minds to live in water-tight compartments apart from the transforming power of the Spirit of Jesus. So we turn from faith and from the Church with impatience—“there is nothing here for us.” Yet I say to you that Jesus was more deeply concerned with the urgent facts of the situation than any of his disciples. However, he took a different approach than they were expecting him to take in dealing with the problem they were facing. He dealt with their storm by speaking directly to it, by attacking the power of Satan himself.

Christ is at the heart of the world’s storms and he is Lord of all. And a Church that stands with her Lord is at the heart of all the storm centers of life, with the revolutionary power of Christ himself. When the Church really is the Church of Christ, it is not irrelevant. Rather, it is driven by the inner necessity of its being, by the truth of the Gospel that is entrusted to it, to be concerned about all our world’s issues and our inhumanity to one another. The Church becomes involved with Christ in the total human situation, sharing as his instruments in the release of the divine peacemaking activity. Christ is the only hope and answer for all of our problems. May Christ’s followers exhibit the fruit of the Holy Spirit through the power of the good news of Jesus Christ! And may

God bless all of you as transformation occurs in you over time through the power of the Holy Spirit.