

## Who Is This Man?

‘A young woman from [a] city was visiting [a] farm. This was her first visit to [a] farm, and she was simply fascinated by the animals. She had never seen many of them before. Therefore, it wasn’t unusual when she blurted out: “What a strange-looking cow. But why hasn’t she any horns?” The farmer explained, “Well, you see, some cows are born without horns and never have any. Others shed theirs, and some we dehorn. And some breeds aren’t supposed to have horns at all. But the reason this cow hasn’t got any horns is because she ain’t a cow ... she’s a horse!”

This young city woman was a veritable “dumb blonde”. She knew enough to know livestock’s general shape and size, but that was it! She had no idea just how ignorant she was. So she assumed she knew what cows looked like. Turns out, she didn’t know that cows and horses are different creatures! Maybe she didn’t even know that horses existed! She just thought that all animals with four legs standing about the height of a man or a little more, were all just different kinds of cattle. And, within her veritable vast knowledge of zoology, all cows had horns. Apparently the only picture she had ever seen of a cow was one that had horns, and so, in her mind, she drew the conclusion that all cows had horns. Also, maybe in her mind, cowboys rounded up the

cows by just riding especially fast-running cows!

Well, enough about cows. But this woman's mindset is like the disciples' in the boat with Lord Jesus crossing the Sea of Galilee. For even after nearly 2 years with the Lord, the disciples had little clue as to Who He really was and is. For here in Mark 4 our Lord is fast asleep in the boat as the storm waves are threatening to sink them all. The disciples were panicking! Note how they practically manhandled the Lord! Sure, Lord Jesus was a guy, a man, but still, He was the very Creator of all that is visible and invisible. Seems like such an exalted Person should be treated with a whole lot more respect and decorum! But the fact that they didn't even think of that revealed just how deficient their understanding was of just Who He is. For in retrospect, we living nearly two millennia later, know much better Who He is than the disciples did at that point in their lives. But, how does our understanding compare with the disciples' after Christ's crucifixion, resurrection and ascension? How does our understanding today compare with the Apostle John's when he neared the end of his life on the Isle of Patmos as he penned his three letters, and both the Gospel According to John, and the Book of Revelation?

At this point in their lives, the disciples had been with the Lord close to two years, about the half-way point of His ministry on earth. And they still knew so little about Him. It's safe to say that their expectations and assumptions about Him were still wildly off base, vastly far from the truth. Here Lord Jesus calms the

storm. He “rebukes” the wind and waves and they suddenly become still. Miraculous! Astounding! Amazing beyond belief! But they’d already seen Him perform other jaw-dropping signs and wonders. Why was this one so stupendous that they were struck silent and practically afraid of Him?

It does seem that such direct and absolute power to control the elements, especially the weather, bespeaks an authority and dominion that seems impossible for humanity to ever achieve, the wishful imaginations of countless sci-fi writers notwithstanding. Probably it seemed to the disciples that this miraculous control over the weather was by far the biggest miracle He had as yet performed. Thus they spoke in hushed, reverent tones to each other in Mark 4:41: “Who is this Man Who has such authority that even the wind and waves obey Him?” Perhaps also this kind of control represents a deep-seated longing in the heart of mankind to be able to control our surroundings. It’s too hot outside today. Wouldn’t it be nicer if we had some more clouds to provide some shade and lower the temperature and reduce the sun’s blinding, glaring rays just a bit? Or, we have scheduled a family reunion picnic in two weeks, and so we call up the National Weather Service, put in our down payment and reserve a perfect day for the event. Would not this type of control display how great we as a human race had progressed? Why, we’ve taken on god-like powers! Would seemingly nothing be beyond our capacities? Why could we not even become literal gods ourselves? Creating “life”?

This kind of thinking was beyond the disciples at the time. But way deep in the heart of man, this desire lives and has been practically from the very beginning. Fanned into life by the serpent's devilish insinuations to Eve in the Garden, this desire to become gods ourselves has led to catastrophes, disasters, wars, killings and destructions beyond measure. Our modern world is even now teetering on the brink of another world war—a war far beyond even the worst of WWII. In fact, the Bible tells us that such a war is coming. But it's God's will for us to pray that it be put off as long as possible, until after the Church is raptured and taken to be with the Lord in the clouds, just a few short years before He fully returns in His glorious Second Coming to “reset” all things right on this earth again.

Some things to note in this event. Lord Jesus was completely at peace during the whole “ordeal”. Sound asleep, peacefully asleep, as the ship tossed, winds sprayed stinging water on the disciples, as waves swept over the decks, threatening to take the whole ship under. Yet, according to the Lord's demeanor, there was nothing whatsoever to worry about. Did He know something they didn't? That we even today don't? Well, sure looks like it.

For starters, the Bible clearly states that He “rebuked” the storm. Now why do that? Isn't the weather just the weather? It doesn't have a personality, does it? It's just a natural phenomena, isn't it? It's just the result of differing air masses, temperature gradients, humidity, energized by the sun, all interacting to pro-

duce various forms of weather, winds and precipitation. All perfectly normal. It's just the luck of the draw that we can enjoy perfect conditions every now and then. Or is it?

It may well be that often this does seem just natural. But major weather events that cause widespread destruction happen with miraculous timing in response to certain governmental decisions, particularly affecting Israel, as has been meticulously documented by William Koenig in *Eye to Eye*. And here in Mark, this was no "ordinary" storm. As if any storm is in the final analysis "ordinary". Because Christ rebuked this storm, He was rebuking the agents causing the storm. And these agents were evil, and they were trying to assassinate the disciples and, if possible, the Lord Himself, to cut off at the pass the new Church the Lord was building, whose purpose was and is to extend the Kingdom of Reconciliation between God and man to all the world. Again, we see that Lord Jesus wasn't perturbed by any of this in the least. He "rebuked" the storm and all quit. All peace was restored. Instantly. The evil spirits whipping up the wind and waves, trying desperately to sink the boat, had been found out, and with just a word from the Lord's mouth, had no more power to do anything, and were sent packing. Their authority was overruled by the Son of Man, the Son of God. His word is the supreme law. It could not be sidestepped, ignored or hindered in the least. So they fled. Just like the devil did after the days he tempted the Lord. It says he withdrew until another time. For the Creator and Supreme

Ruler had stepped into history and begun rebuilding the ruins of earth, and reestablishing the perfection of Heaven on this planet.

The disciples had no idea this is what was really transpiring. But this was just one more lesson for them. They would eventually learn exactly Who this Man was and is. He was not just an extraordinary Man born in Bethlehem, Who grew up in Nazareth, Who studied to become a priest, became a rabbi, and gained a huge following, recognized as a prophet Who performed miraculous signs and wonders. He was far more than that. He hadn't come to deliver Israel from Roman oppression, not in the way they hoped. That was, in comparison, a trivial thing. No, He had come to disable, disarm, and ultimately to destroy all the powers of darkness that had invaded the earth, been imprisoned below the earth, who were killing, stealing, and destroying the lives of precious people all over the globe. He came to remove their legal rights to torment people because their sins against God rendered them "fair" prey to be attacked by evil forces. No, Lord Jesus was no ordinary Man. He was truly *the* Son of God, the Son of Man. Because He was restoring to mankind the power, position, and prestige of the beloved creatures God, Him, made in His very Own image. For it is only when we begin to truly know Who He is, that we begin to know who we really are! He came to show us what we've forgotten from the beginning of time! This is Who He is. Unified with Holy Spirit, this is Who we are—His brothers and sisters. Study and learn how to take and live in our true identities!

