

## Jesus Christ's Authority Over Nature

Christ's miracle of feeding the five thousand is unique in that it is the only one that all four gospel writers mention (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14). It illustrates Jesus' authority over nature and His divine intervention on behalf of others, showing that He is concerned about both humans' physical *and* spiritual needs.

This miracle is a magnificent act of creative power. No amount of human reasoning can reduce this miracle to a natural phenomenon. Indeed, complete understanding of miracles is beyond human capability to understand. By an act of His own creative power, Jesus revealed proof of His deity to thousands.

Mark characteristically records details that the other writers do not, and here (Mark 6:51-52) he describes the disciples' astonishment. If they had truly believed, nothing should have amazed them. They knew Jesus was the Messiah, but their faith was too weak to believe deeply that He was the powerful God of creation. Mark explains that His multiplying of the loaves and fish earlier should have demonstrated Jesus' true identity to them (Mark 8:18-21), but neither that miracle nor the appearance of Jesus on the water could open their hearts to the reality of His divine nature.

The heart of Christ's miracle of walking on the water (Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:15-21) is that of Jesus' direct control over natural law. His paradoxical action against the known laws of gravity and of the properties of liquid water did not change, suspend, or cancel these universal laws themselves; instead, it was the exercise of a stronger power.

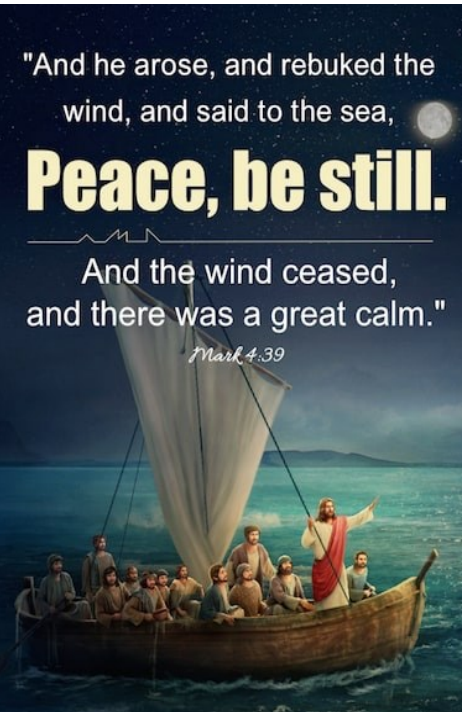
When Jesus had calmed the storm earlier, the disciples had struggled with faith versus fear (Mark 4:40), and now, they struggled with faith versus fear *plus* hard-heartedness. Their hearts were hardened because their minds were slow to recognize the significance of Christ's miracle. This does not mean that they were conflicted about Jesus, but simply that they were slow to recognize His omnipotence. Once the excitement of the raging sea had settled down, the disciples gained a greater appreciation for the breadth of His power. From this they were able to admire and worship Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). The disciples' hearts were beginning to soften.

The encouraging lesson of this miracle is that faith is tested by the stormy trials in life, but despite our being tossed about on the waves of a troublesome world, Jesus is always near. We may feel abandoned in times of stress, but Christ has not forgotten us. His intervention may sometimes come suddenly, at other times slowly, yet depending on the will of the Father, there is always the potential for a miraculous solution.

—Martin G. Collins, *The Miracles of Jesus*

## Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Brad Luna, Don's nephew, will have prostate surgery April 29th in Springfield.
- ◆ Dorlene's mother is having hip problems.
- ◆ Nikki Smith, sister-in-law of Tiffany Pleasant, has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Sue Hambelton, Barbara White, Larry Butler, Faye Flaughers, Ruth Strain, Norma Jones, Steve Siebels, Aleta Collins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Cindy Gibson, Leroy Collins.
- ◆ Those in GHCC: Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Bonnie Luna at Ava. Clifford Lansdown at River Lodge, Mtn. Home; Jack Moyers Southern Meadows. Wilbern Uchtman, Brook Haven in West Plains.



**Remember our  
gospel meeting  
next Friday,  
Saturday, Sunday.  
Come get revived!**

**TURN TO THE ONE WHO  
CALMED STORMS  
RESTORED LIFE  
AND FORGAVE SINS BECAUSE  
HE STILL DOES**

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
4-4	Nichole Lane	4-7	Elmo and Sue Hambelton
4-6	Barbara James	Birthdays	
4-11	Vicki Smith	4-26	Mark Lane
4-14	Sailor Anderson	4-28	Rebecca Hambelton
4-16	Dustin Lynne	4-27	Barbara
4-18	Lana Cockrum	4-29	Harold Reynolds
4-19	Logan Hillhouse		

Melinda will be serving baked ziti, salad, garlic bread, and dessert for Wednesday night fellowship supper before classes.

Jessica Smith will be taking family pictures after services in April for a new directory. Be sure to fill out and return the information sheet.

Date	Event	Details
<b>Friday</b> 7 p.m. Apr. 12 <b>Saturday</b> 5 p.m. Sermon Dinner 6-7 p.m. Sermon at 7 p.m.	Gospel Meeting Here <b>Sunday</b> 9:30 a.m. Class; 10:30 a.m. Worship Basket Dinner after	Devin Swindle, preacher See flyer on bulletin board
April 14-17	Gospel Meeting Thayer	"Godly Habits" Preacher Scott Cain
Sat., Apr. 20, 10 a.m.	Ladies' Prayer Brunch	WE HOST!
Sat., April 27, 10-2:00	Fair Haven Children's Home	60th Celebration See bulletin board
Sat., June 1st	Vacation Bible School	Here

### April Worship Assignments

#### Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

#### Communion & Closing Prayer

4-7	John Abraham	R. J. Moyers
4-14	Mark Lane	D. E. Pleasant
4-21	David Stevens	Paul Wade
4-28	Don Luna	Don Reynolds

**Song Leader: Titus Smith**

**Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna**

## The Family News

April 7, 2024

### Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

[www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org)

### A Place to Call Home

*We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.*

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: *Jesus Heals, Calms Storms, Forgives Sin*

#### Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

#### Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

#610, *I Love My Savior, Too*; #961, *There Is a Balm in Gilead*

#375, *Oh the Depth and the Riches*; Communion Service

#189, *Master, the Tempest Is Raging*

Scripture Reading by Waylon Strong, Matt. 8:16-17

Sermon and Invitation

#947, *Jesus Is Tenderly Calling*

#989, *Soon and Very Soon*

Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

#### **Elders**

Mark Lane	417-679-4835
Don Luna	417-712-1945
David Stevens	417-679-4700
John Abraham	870-421-5632

#### **Deacons**

Larry Butler	817-504-1604
Dana Crisp	417-331-5090
James Langston	870-315-4355
<b>Preacher</b>	
Halbert Smith	417-257-3880

**Ministers:** Every Member—Each One of Us