

What Sort of Man is this

In the eighth chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, we read about what I consider one of Jesus's most impressive miracles. This miracle may have impressed Jesus's apostles as well, since it is also recorded in the fourth chapter of Mark and in the eighth chapter of Luke.

In these accounts, we read where Jesus and His apostles were crossing the Sea of Galilee in a boat. In the midst of the sea, they are caught in a violent storm. The apostles fight to keep the boat afloat, but soon realize they are losing the battle. Surprisingly Jesus is sleeping through the storm. Fearing for their very lives, the apostles wake Jesus and plead for Jesus to save them from drowning. With only the power of His words, Jesus commands the winds and the waves to stop. Immediately, "there was a great calm". In my mind's eye, I see the sea as smooth as a pane of glass and the wind at a dead calm.

What impresses me about this miracle is it cannot be easily explained away as a clever deception. Jesus "claimed" to heal the sick. But how could one be sure, those "healed" were not part of the ruse? In the ninth chapter of John we read where Jesus heals a man who was born blind. In verse 18 we read, "The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, "and questioned the man and his parents as to how Jesus "healed" him.

The miracles of feeding the thousands can be explained away as well. Perhaps the generosity of Jesus and His apostles prompted others to contribute their own bread and fish to the meal.

But this miracle was different, very different. As the apostles wondered themselves, "What sort of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey him?" The question is rhetorical, of course. The winds and the sea obey no man. But the winds and sea would obey their creator, God the Father or His divine Son. And these men made this fact their confession of faith for the rest of their lives; that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God. This is the true confession of all of God's children as well.

However, let's consider the apostle's question from another perspective. What sort of man do you think Jesus is? Do you believe a real man named Jesus walked the earth and did and taught the amazing things recorded in the Bible or were these only interesting myths and fables? Do you believe Jesus WAS a wise teacher or one of many prophets who died as all men do, many centuries ago? Or do you believe the confession that Jesus requires; that Jesus IS and He is the Word of God with the power to create worlds and judge all mankind. What sort of man is Jesus to you?

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