

**WHAT KIND OF MAN IS THIS?**  
**(IT IS I—DON'T BE AFRAID—Mark 6)**  
[I AM Series]

**I. EARLY PICTURES OF JESUS' IDENTITY**

1. Calling His first disciples (**Jn 1**)

- John testified He was the **Son of God**
- John called Him the **Lamb of God**
- Andrew called Him the **Messiah** (the Christ)
- Nathaniel called Him the **Son of God**, the **King of Israel**

2. To Nicodemus—implied He was the **Son of Man** (**Jn 3**)

3. To Samaritan woman—revealed Himself as the **Messiah** (**Jn 4**)

4. Synagogue at Nazareth (**Lk 4**)—where He was rejected

- Applied Isaiah 61 to Himself
- The Anointed One of God
- Gave his **mission statement**

***Lk 4:18-21**—The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because he has **anointed Me** to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord . . . Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.*

7. Throughout Galilee—He healed and cast out demons

a. Healed **all kinds** of diseases (**Mt 4**)

- Severe pain—epilepsy—and the paralyzed
- Even leprosy (**Mt 8**)

b. Healed from **afar**

- From Cana—nobleman's son in Capernaum (**Jn 4**)
- Centurion's servant—at home elsewhere in Capernaum (**Mt 8**)

c. He **exorcized** demons (**Lk 4** and **Mt 4**)—who identified Him

- Some called Him the 'Holy One of God'
- Others identified Him as the 'Son of God'

8. Two early events in Mark/Luke [Matthew puts later]

a. Healing of paralytic (Lk 5)—in Nazareth [Mt 9]

***Mk 2:24**—But that you may know that the **Son of Man** has authority on earth to forgive sins*

b. **Lk 7**—Resurrected widow of Nain's son—people said "a **great prophet** has appeared among us"

9. Sermon on the Mount (Mt 7)—indirectly proclaims His Sonship

*Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only He who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.*

## SUMMARY

COMPOSITE PICTURE of early claims about Jesus'

- The Son of God
- The Lamb of God
- The Messiah—deliverer of Israel
- The Christ—anointed one of God
- The King of Israel
- The Holy One of God
- The Son of Man
- Great Prophet [i.e. the Expected One]

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS that gave evidence to Jesus' identity

- He **preached** the Good News
- He **taught** with great authority
- He **healed** every type of disease
- He **exorcised** demons—and they obeyed His commands
- He **raised** the dead
- Reputation spread all over Syria/Transjordan—large crowds followed Him

## II. QUESTION—WHAT KIND OF MAN IS THIS—WHO THEN IS THIS?

**Read text—Mt 8:23-27** [Mk 4:36-41 and Lk 8:22-25]

Context:

- Sometime after Sermon on the Mount
- Pressed by crowds—Jesus went to the other side of the sea

*23 When He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was asleep. 25 And they came to Him and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing!" 26 He said to them, "Why are you afraid, **you men of little faith?**" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. 27 The men were amazed, and said, "**What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?**"*

### A. DISAPPOINTING DISCIPLES—SHORT ON FAITH

1. Not first time they had been afraid—not the last time either

a. Beforehand

- After healing of paralytic in Nazareth (**Lk 5**)—people were filled with **fear**
- After raising of widow of Nain's son (**Lk 7**)—people were filled with **fear**

❖ NIV says 'awe'—but KJV/NASB rightly say 'fear'—it is φόβος

b. Afterward

- The next incident on the Sea of Galilee—**Mt 14**

- Peter's sinking in the water—**Mt 14**
- The Transfiguration—**Mt 17**
- Approaching Jerusalem before the crucifixion—**Mk 10**

2. But this time—in the boat—**nature** of their fear was different

a. *Other* places—the word is **φοβεω**—have a normal fear (phobia)

b. Here—the word is **δειλος** = timid or fearful (not **φοβεω**)

1. Used only three times in the NT

a. Here and Mark's account of this incident (**Mk 4**)

b. And in **Rev 21:8**

1. Linked with unbelief punishable by eternal death

2. Translated here as 'cowardly'

2. So—unbecoming cowardliness—not just natural fear

3. After all they had seen Jesus do—why were they so *cowardly*?

4. Jesus was *genuinely disappointed* in them!

3. Real **causes** of their fear

a. *Secondary* cause—natural circumstances

1. Several were experienced fishermen—so why the fear?

2. Two reasons

a. Their location

1. Crossing the sea [to Gedara]—in deeper water than usual

2. Not fishing near the shore—as usual

b. A 'great storm'

1. KJV says—'great tempest'

2. Literally a great (**mega**) shaking (**seismos**)

3. Everywhere else in NT—it is translated 'earthquake'!!!!

b. *Primary* cause?

- Jesus gives the answer—their little/lack of faith

4. What kind of faith did they have?

a. Three different versions

1. **Matthew** = ‘little faith’—**Mt 8:26**

- **ολιγοπιστις** = few—slight—short
- Opposite of the ‘great’ (mega) storm

2. **Mark** = ‘no faith’ [not any—none!]**—Mk 4:40**

3. **Luke** = ‘where is your faith? [absent!]**—Lk 8:25**

b. Jesus was making this point:

- Your faith is so small—it cannot be detected
- Your faith is so small—it is of no use

## B. THE IRONY OF FEAR

1. See their response *after* Jesus calmed the sea

a. **Mt 8:27**—they were ‘**amazed**’ [KJV—they marveled]

b. But Mark and Luke give a stronger reaction

1. **Mk 4:41** says—they were ‘**terrified**’ = terror or dread

- Compound construction—makes it even more intense
- Literally feared (**φοβέω**) = a great (**μεγα**) fear (**φοβος**)
- A fear greater (mega) than their big (mega) fear of the storm

2. **Lk 8:25** says—they were fearful *and* amazed

2. The points are these:

a. Though awestruck by His power

- They were **more afraid of Him** than of the storm
- They were unsettled about **who** He might be
- Could He even be *demonic*—like the scribes from Jerusalem had said [**Mk 3**]???

b. They admitted that they *really* did not know Him

- Matthew says—“What *kind* of man is this?”
- Mark and Luke say—“*Who* then is this?”

## C. OBSERVATIONS AND APPLICATION

1. OBSERVATIONS

a. Correlation between their fear and faith

Big danger + weak faith → unbecoming fear (**cowardice**)

b. Jesus was genuinely **disappointed** in them

- Like when Jesus was later disappointed with Philip
- When Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father

**Jn 14:9**—*Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?*

- c. They were **spiritual pygmies**—their faith was short in stature
- d. *Following* Jesus is not enough—even *emulating* Him is not enough
  1. Jesus had many false followers [see Sermon on Mount]
    - a. They did miracles and cast out demons in His name
    - b. But He rejected them—*I never knew you*—**Mt 7**
  2. What really matters is that His followers *know* Him

## 2. APPLICATION

- God takes us into **deep waters**—to **grow** our **faith** and **knowledge** of Him
- “What kind of man is this,” begs another question—what kind of followers are we?
- How tall is our faith? Does it fall short? Do we disappoint God?
- Example—standing on our tip-toes and stretching out our hands to reach God
- God stoops—but do we stretch?

## III. THE ANSWER—THIS IS THE KIND OF MAN I AM!

### A. LATER EVENTS—HOW JESUS FURTHER REVEALED HIMSELF

1. Many additional **powerful miracles** and **healings**
  - Exorcised the **Gadarene demoniac** (**Mt 8**)
  - Resurrected **Jairus’s daughter** (**Mt 9**)
  - Healed woman with **12-year hemorrhage** (**Mt 9**)
  - Healed man with **withered hand** (**Mt 12**)
  - Healed **blind-mute, demon-possessed man** (**Mt 12**)
2. Showed John the Baptist’s messengers—**Mt 11:4-6**—that He fulfilled His mission statement!
  - **Blind** receive sight
  - **Lame** walk
  - **Lepers** are cleansed
  - **Deaf** hear
  - Dead are **raised**
  - Poor have the **good news proclaimed** to them
3. [**SHIFT to Mark**]  
—Again His miracles and teaching **astonished** them at Nazareth
  - But they **rejected** Him again—a second time—**Mk 6:1-6**

4. The great miracle of the **Feeding of the 5000**—**Mk 6:30-44**

**B. SECOND CHANCE TO GROW IN FAITH**

**Read text**—**Mk 6:45-52** [Mt 14: 22-33 and Jn 6:16-21]

1. Context (see John 6:15)

- a. **After** feeding the **5000**
- b. Jesus knew—people wanted to seize Him and make Him king—see **Jn 6**
- c. So he sent disciples away

*45 Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. 46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. 47 Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land. 48 He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them, 49 but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out, 50 because they all saw him and were terrified. Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” 51 Then He climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. 52 They were completely amazed, for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.*

2. Circumstances

a. Situation

1. Disciples struggling and **tired**—but **not afraid**
  - a. Rowing for hours—from evening to about 3-6 am (4<sup>th</sup> watch)
  - b. Waves battered them—made headway difficult
2. Were about 3-3 ½ miles away from Jesus—[**Jn 6:19**]

b. Jesus’ intention(s)

1. Saw them straining at oars—so He wanted to help
2. Apparent intention—to *assist* them directly—was *not* his goal
3. Real intention—was ‘to pass by them’—**Mk 6:48**
4. Key question—but **why**? A very odd phrase—found only in **Mark**

3. The ‘**irony of fear**’ *again*

- a. Second time—*Jesus* becomes their main source of fear
- b. They have another chance to grow taller in faith
- c. They also can discover answer to original question—“Who then is this man?”

### C. THE ANSWER—JESUS' GREAT REVELATION

1. He gave them **two commands**—[and an implied promise]
  - a. One **positive** command—“Take courage”
    - Remedy for their previous ‘cowardice’ (**δειλοσ**) in the storm
  - b. One **negative** command—“Do not be afraid”
    - The remedy for their previous ‘fear’ (**φοβεω**) of Him
2. He repeated **OT covenant** language—intended to reassure them
  - a. **Dt 31:6**—gave two sets of commands that mirror these
    - *Be strong and courageous,*
    - *Do not be afraid or tremble at them*
  - b. Based on explicit promise by God (also **Dt 31:6**)
    - *For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you.*
3. Jesus’ **implied promise** is in two things:
  - His intention
  - His words
  - a. Jesus’ **intention**
    1. See **Mark 6:48** again—He was “about to pass by them”
      - a. This does *not* mean—by-pass and strand them
      - b. Instead—His purpose was to *reveal* Himself—as the I AM
    2. To ‘pass by’—is exactly how God revealed His **Shekinah glory** in the OT
    3. Evidenced in two incidents—with those two persons later present at the Transfiguration!
      - a. To show **Moses** He would stay with Israel and go with them

**Ex 33:20-23**—*You cannot see My face, for no man can see Me and live! Then the Lord said, Behold there is a place by Me, and you shall stand there on the rock; and it will come about, while My glory is **passing by**, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have **passed by**. Then I will take My hand away and you shall see My back, but My face shall not be seen.*
      - b. He ‘passed by’ **Elijah** in a similar way on the mountain

**I Kg 19:11-12**—then revealed Himself in a still, small voice
  - b. Jesus’ **words**—contain the implied promise
    1. His words—“It is I”—literally mean **I AM**

2. Identical with God's self-revelation to Moses
3. Used language of **Dt 31**—that *expressed* this promise
  - Not only “It is I” who stand before you
  - But also the promise: “I AM the Lord your God, who is the one that goes with you”

#### **D. THE REVELATION OF GOD HIMSELF—THE CONFIRMATION**

##### **Read Matthew's continued account—Mt 14:28-33**

*28 Peter said to Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.” 29 And He said, “Come!” And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32 When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “You are certainly God's Son!”*

1. This incident finally made them realize who He really was
  - You are certainly God's Son!!!—**verse 33**
2. The difference [from Matthew 8 incident]
  - a. Beforehand—in **Matthew 8**
    - He had performed a miracle—calming the sea—like many of His other miracles
    - But He was in the safety of the boat Himself
  - b. Now—in **Matthew 14**
    - He Himself was at risk—outside the boat
    - He defied the very ‘laws of nature’
    - This manifested His *own* supernatural nature
    - He revealed who He *really* was—*God* incarnate!!!
  - c. The answer to the question—Who then is this man?
    - He is God Himself!!!

#### **E. THE PATTERN OF REVELATION TO DISCIPLES**

1. First *heard*—*that* Jesus was—the Lamb of God—the Son of God
2. Then *saw* evidence—*that* He was god-like—by His glory and miracles
3. Then saw His glory and believed *in* Him—but in an incomplete way—**John 2**
4. Step-by-step they encountered His divinity and came to *know* He was God
5. But their knowledge was incomplete—and so was their faith
  - It was still weak and imperfect
  - Yet it grew as they walked with Him day by day



## F. APPLICATION

- It is one thing to **hear** *that* Jesus is God (from others' confessions)
- It is another thing to **see** things proving *that* Jesus is God
- It is still another thing to **believe** *that* Jesus is God
- It is yet another thing to **KNOW** Jesus as God—not just know *that* He is God
- We must grow in that knowledge of *who* He is—daily

## IV. HOW GOD GROWS US IN FAITH

### A. PETER'S EXAMPLE [[Matthew 14](#)]

#### 1. Peter showed how we can grow in faith

- a. At first—like all the others—He was afraid
  - Just as we are afraid—or worried—in difficult circumstances
- b. But when He recognized the Lord—He had a great surge in faith!
  - Just as we might do—when we see that “the Lord is at work” in something
- c. Notice—Jesus did not calm the sea before Peter stepped out
  - Peter took great risk—and initially showed great faith

#### 2. But Peter also faltered in faith

- a. He had enough faith to *motivate* Him—but not enough to *sustain* Him
- b. It faltered—when—He took his eyes off Jesus
  1. When he focused on the problem—the ‘wind’
  2. When he began to rely on his own strength—misplaced faith
- c. What faltered first?
  - At first—it was not the strength of his faith
  - At first—it was his focus

### B. APPLICATION

1. God does not usually calm the sea before He tells us to step out in faith
2. We must keep our faith focused on Christ—not on the problems
3. Misplaced faith—no matter how strong—can lead to disaster
4. But faith focused on the master of the sea—takes us through any storm