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JESUS: GOD'S POWER IN ACTION

Jesus Displays His Authority

Bible School Lesson for March 16*

By John Mathew

Jesus Christ is the son of the living God. God the Father declared it several times (Matthew 3:17; 17:5). Jesus Christ prayed to God as “My Father” (Matthew 26:39). Jesus Christ was with God (John 1:1). Everything was made by Him and for Him. Jesus Christ has the power and authority over everything: nature, sickness, demons, and death. He proved this on many occasions while He was on earth.

This lesson considers Jesus’ authority and power over nature. Jesus said to His disciples, “Let us cross over to the other side.” They took Him in a boat. A great storm arose, and the waves dashed upon the boat. The boat was about to sink, but Jesus was fast asleep. The disciples woke Him saying, “Don’t you care that we are perishing?” Jesus rebuked the sea, and the wind and the sea became silent.

Jesus asked them, “Why are you afraid? Do you not have faith in me?”

They were amazed and said, “Who is he, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Jesus Gives Us Peace

Here Jesus displayed His power over nature; He also proved His care for His own. If Jesus is with us there is nothing to worry about. He always cares for us. We need only faith in Him. God has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Jesus gives us peace when we go through life’s pains and problems. The disciples did not know what to do in such a great tempest. They were uncertain about their lives and thought everything was over. We also come to crossroads in life not knowing what to do. If we cry

for help, Jesus will show the way. Our problem is that we don’t ask for help or don’t admit our insufficiency. If we ask Jesus, He will give us peace in life’s storms of sickness and separation. God will heal our sickness or give us His grace (Psalm 103:3; 2 Corinthians 12:9).

Jesus gives us peace at the time of disappointment and worry. We forget God’s promises and often worry about our future and ourselves. Satan uses a powerful weapon, anxiety, to take our focus away from God. Paul reminds us, “Do not be anxious about anything.” Jesus can give us the peace that passes all understanding.

After calming the storm, Jesus came to the shore where a demon-possessed man met Him. He was a dangerous man under the power of an unclean spirit. He was dwelling among the tombs. No one could bind him; he broke chains and fetters of iron. He tormented himself and all who came close to him. When the man saw Jesus, he ran to Him and worshiped Him. The man needed deliverance.

With a commanding voice Jesus said, “Come out of him, you unclean spirit.” The unclean spirit begged Jesus not to send him away and sought permission to enter into a herd of swine feeding nearby. Jesus allowed that, and the whole herd plunged into the sea.

The people heard about this, gathered together, and saw the man who was earlier possessed with an unclean spirit. Now he sat clothed and in his right mind.

Instead of receiving the saving grace of Christ, they disliked Christ because they lost their pigs. They were only concerned about their pigs and not the healing of the poor man. They asked

Home Daily Bible Readings

March 10 Mark 4:35-41
 March 11 Mark 6:45-51
 March 12 Mark 5:1-10
 March 13 Mark 5:11-20
 March 14 John 2:1-11
 March 15 John 5:19-24
 March 16 Matthew 7:24-29

Christ to leave their community.

Our Lord also can deliver us from dangers. We need to come to Him in worship and ask Him for His help. The man who was delivered from the evil spirit desired to go with Christ. Maybe he was afraid that the devil would seize him again or that the heathen people would harm him. He wanted close fellowship with Christ. But Christ said to him, "Go to your home and tell others what God has done for you." He had experienced misery in his life and the compassion of Christ; now Christ could be honored in his home.

We Christians should follow his example. With our testimony and faith in Christ, His name should be glorified and people should be encouraged to follow Him.

THE LESSON WRITER:

John Mathew and his wife, Moni, were born and raised in Christian families in India. Both were New Testament Christians before coming to the United States. They each came in the early 1970s to work and attend college. They were married in 1974 at the Bridgetown Church of Christ in Cincinnati, Ohio. They have three adult children—Becky, Joshua, and Benjamin—who are active Christians. In 1977 they returned to their native state of Kerala in India to do mission work. They proclaim the gospel through preaching, teaching, a radio ministry, an orphanage, at revivals and crusades, and by showing *The Jesus Film*.



Lesson text: Mark 4:35-5:20. Printed text: Mark 4:36-41; 5:2-13. Memory text: Mark 4:41. *Lesson based on International Sunday School Lessons, ©2000 by the Lesson Committee.