**The Lord’s Power over Nature**

**Lesson 001 Mark 4v35-41**

We are starting a new series today on the Lord Jesus Christ’s power. Over the next few weeks, we’ll see many things that He has Sovereign power over.

Who do you go to if you need help? Your parents?

If it’s at school or college, it might be your teachers?

You need to go to someone who has the power to help you and resolve your situation.

As a parent it can be very hard to sort out issues for your children.

Our daughter is in a lot of pain at the moment. We’ve taken her to the doctors, who have referred us to the local hospital. She’s been for scans and lots of appointments, but she is still in pain, and they are still unsure what is wrong and how to help. They cancelled a very important appointment 3 weeks ago and we are still waiting for them to get back in touch.

Do you think we trust that they have the answer to the issue?

No! Hannah knows that we are trying our best, but we don’t have the answer. We feel very helpless in our own strength. Everything we have tried; she is still in pain.

So, although we care and want to help, humanly speaking, we can only keep trying different options.

Life is fine when we feel in control and have the answer but as soon as things become uncertain, that is when we see how limited we are as humans.

Think of what’s happened in the world over the last 2 and a half years or so, with covid and wars.

**2**

We almost feel that things we used to trust in and take for granted are now no longer there. Maybe you’ve heard about all the problems at the moment with rising energy prices. If you are not aware, you can be sure that your parents are concerned. There’s always a limit to our knowledge and power, and it’s very humbling to know that there are situations in our lives where we don’t know the answer and feel helpless.

Is there anyone who knows the answer and solution to absolutely everything?

Even the wisest man who ever lived, King Solomon, made the most stupid and evil of choices and showed that his human wisdom was not enough.

There is only one such person that has ever lived who can help and that is of course the Lord Jesus Christ.

For He was not just a man; from eternity past, with no beginning, the Lord Jesus Christ has always existed.

He is a member of the Godhead, alongside God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

He came into our world and was born as a baby boy in Bethlehem. He was God and yet, He limited Himself as a man so he could perfectly obey God’s law and die on the cross to save all who would trust in Him.

The Lord demonstrated to His disciples and indeed to us, that He was God, by His miracles, His healings, and His teachings.

People came to Him in their need, and he responded with help for their need.

These miracles help us see that He has power over the physical things of this world, as well as over the spiritual things.

It is only by trusting and believing in Him, that we can be saved from our sins and made right with God.

**3**

This series will show us that He has the answer to everything.

All human helps will fail us, but there is One who we can trust in to help in all situations.

The Bible clearly tells us not to put our confidence or trust in man but to trust only in God.

So, the question in today’s lesson is “Who are we putting our trust in?”

In helping our daughter, we have learnt to take everything to the Lord in prayer and ask for His help and overruling.

He may not necessarily take the pain away, but He will so overrule that we are given comfort and peace of mind and that the help needed will be provided in His time.

We need to learn to trust only in Him and not ourselves or other human beings.

Maybe you know someone who is seriously ill or has been.

I know of at least two people who have had to have lifesaving surgery just recently.

In all things, we can look to the Lord for grace and help in our time of need.

Now it’s just over a year now I was very ill with Covid and in hospital undergoing oxygen treatment. My wife and I prayed that the Lord would grant me healing and we were joined by the prayers of the Lord’s people both here at EDT and at our previous church, the Met Tab.

Neither of us knew how the Lord would answer.

Would He take me into glory to be with Him?

Or would He heal me and take me back to be with my family.

In the Lord’s mercy, he healed me, and I can truly say that I knew the power of God at the very time that I was totally helpless.

**4**

The Lord Jesus Christ is of course now in Heaven, but He is always ready to hear our cries for help. He is kind to answer people’s cries for help even when they don’t believe in Him. He wants you to cry out to Him for forgiveness and salvation. Once we are forgiven, He is even more ready to answer in the best way, so as to build up our faith and give us the comfort that we need.

What a Saviour we have?

The disciples were very blessed as they had the Lord living with them as a man for 3 years. They saw Him physically every day; they could talk to Him on whatever subject they wanted or ask for His help in person. They saw Him do so many amazing miracles which showed that He was God. They saw Him walk on water, they saw Him physically change the makeup of water and turn it into a completely different drink, they saw him perform countless miracles and healings and they heard Him teach them so many wonderful truths.

Things that they could not do as mere sinful men, but He could do as our Creator God.

They knew that He had power. They knew that with Him they would not starve or die, unless He allowed it.

And yet the Lord was going to test them to see if they truly trusted in Him as God.

The Lord had been very busy preaching and teaching and doing miracles, and He was tired.

Obviously, as God, he never sleeps, but as a true man, He knew what it was like to feel hunger, pain, sorrow, and exhaustion.

He knows exactly what we feel like when we are exhausted and all we want to do is sleep. So, He asked His disciples if He could go with them in their boat, so that they could sail away from the crowds and go somewhere quiet.

**5**

As they started their journey across the sea of Galilee, all was calm and peaceful, there was no wind and so the disciples gladly took Him on board, and they didn’t mind at all that He went to sleep in the stern of the boat.

They thought that they had no need of His help. Many of them were experienced sailors and fishermen and were used to sailing in such wonderful weather.

But little did they know what was about to happen.

When we’re asleep, do we know what is going on around us? No! Do we know what the future has in store for us?

Of course not, none of us knows what will happen next week, or tomorrow or even for that matter, what’s going to happen in the next hour or so.

Although they were experienced sailors, their boat was still vulnerable, and they would soon find themselves in great danger.

However, for the Lord it was completely different.

Even while He was asleep, as God, He knew everything that was going on and that was about to happen.

What did happen? The calm sea, the gentle breeze and the beautiful sunny sky all gave way in an instant to the scariest, fiercest storm imaginable.

Even these experienced sailors had never seen a storm like this.

Even today, there are often great storms on the sea of Galilee. It lies 680 feet below sea level and is bounded by hills, especially on the east side where they reach a height of 2,000 feet high. These heights are a source of cool, dry air. However, directly around the sea, the climate is semi-tropical with warm, moist air. The large difference in height between surrounding land and the sea causes large temperature and pressure changes. This results in strong winds dropping to the sea, funnelling through the hills.

**6**

The sea itself is small, and these winds may descend directly to the centre of the lake with violent results.

When the contrasting air masses meet, a storm can arise quickly and without warning. Small boats caught out on the sea are in immediate danger.

That’s just what happened here.

The waves crashed over the boat’s side and the disciples felt weak and helpless. The boat could snap in half at any minute and the waves sweep them to their deaths.

They were screaming and scared.

What was the Lord doing whilst they feared for their lives? He slept.

Could the Lord only rescue the disciples when He was awake?

As humans we can only do things whilst we are awake.

But as God, the Lord could resolve the situation awake or asleep! The disciples should have realised that the Lord knew their trouble, He knew they needed help. He was God, and as God He never slept and knew all their needs.

But, no, the disciples panicked and woke the Lord up and cried “Don’t you care if we die?”

Did the Lord care if they died? Of course, He did! But He was testing them, just as He might test us in times of trial and uncertainty. Do you trust the Lord to be able to answer your prayers whilst He seems far away from you? We have the same Lord in Heaven; do you trust that the Lord can hear your prayers and answer them even though you can’t see Him by your side? As the Scripture says, nothing is impossible with God. Do you trust that God can do all things? Or do you question whether He exists or is able to answer your need?

**7**

The Lord heard their cries and immediately spoke to the winds “Peace Be Still”

The wind and rains obeyed Him, but even more so, the waves of the seas that were previously so choppy and tumultuous soon became calm and placid again. What power and might He has over Nature!

He has power over everything!

What kindness to hear their cries and answer their need.

Then He rebuked the disciples and asked them why did they have such little faith?

Why couldn’t they trust Him even though He was asleep? The disciples were amazed how the wind and sea obeyed Him.

Will you be amazed how when you cry out for forgiveness that HE will hear and forgive you and give you peace from sin?

Will you trust Him to save you from your sins and from Hell? Will you trust Him with your life?

Will you trust Him to care for you and guide you throughout your life?

Don’t just pray when you are in trouble.

There are many storms in our lives.

Maybe you’re worried about the future.

Will I pass my exams? Will I be able to go to a good university and get the right qualifications?

Will I be able to get a good job?

Will I fall ill? Will there be another pandemic?

Will there be a war in Europe? Will I have to go and fight? What about climate change? Do we worry about what the future may hold?

**8**

We don’t need to worry about such things.

Lord showed His disciples that He has power over Nature. He has power over all things, and we should remember to seek Him and find Him, ask Him to forgive us.

He is ready and willing to hear you pray for forgiveness and for help and guidance in all the issues of life.

If you are saved, then you need to daily pray to thank Him for all your blessings, to praise Him and be amazed at His love and kindness. You will also want to pray that you can be a witness for Him and be used of Him to help others seek and find the Lord.

Will you trust only in Him?