

Who is This Man?

*"That day when evening came,
he said to his disciples, 'Let us go over to the other side.'
Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along,
just as he was, in the boat.*

*There were also other boats with him.
A furious squall came up, and the waves broke
over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.
Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion.*

*The disciples woke him and said to him,
'Teacher, don't you care if we drown?'
He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,
'Quiet! Be still!'*

*Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.
He said to his disciples, 'Why are you so afraid?
Do you still have no faith?*

*They were terrified and asked each other,
'Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!'"*

Mark 4:35-41 (NIV)

This story has significant information about the work of the Lord Jesus. First, we read that the Lord's apparent inaction when life threatening storms come can be interpreted by His people as a possible lack of caring. Second, we read how Jesus controls even the weather.

This scene may have inspired the great English poet William Cowper (1731-1800) to pen the following hymn so often quoted especially the first verse.

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;

He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines
Of never failing skill
He treasures up
His bright designs
And works
His sov'reign will.

Ye fearful saints,
fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread
Are big with mercy
and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord
by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;

Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;
The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flow'r.

Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.
As one who has
Thy gift received.

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