

John 6:15-21
"The Power of Jesus" Part 6

Who has never been afraid? Show me such a person and I will show you a person who has not lived. Fear is a natural human condition. It is one that must be acknowledged and managed. Scripture gives evidence to this.

Isaiah 41:10 "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." NLT

John 14:27 "27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

Yes, fear is a natural human condition one that must be managed, or one could easily become overwhelmed by fear. And the list of things we fear seem infinite. However, it is my opinion that nothing is feared more by humans than death. We fear the imminence of death. We fear the death of loved ones. We fear when and how we might die. But the disciple has no reason to fear death or fear anything for that matter because Jesus has conquered all. Jesus has authority over all things. In him we are totally secure. If this be true, then what is there for us to fear? Nothing! Turning our attention to our text three things from this miracle story to strengthen us in our faith and to help us, at a minimum, effectively manage fear.

First, we must learn how to wait on the Lord. V16-18 "16 That evening Jesus' disciples went down to the shore to wait for him. 17 But as darkness fell and Jesus still hadn't come back, they got into the boat and headed across the lake toward

Capernaum. ¹⁸ Soon a gale swept down upon them, and the sea grew very rough.” I have no idea why the disciples found the need to cross without Jesus. It would be easy to say, well this had to happen for it gave Jesus an opportunity to put his power on display and to grow his disciple’s faith in him. This is how we often look back and assess challenging situations in our lives brought by our hasty decision making or flat-out disobedience. *We say well it had to happen so that God could do something in my life.* And yes, God may have indeed used the situation to change us, to grow us in our faith but that does mean it had to happen. **God/Jesus does not need our help to create situations that give him the opportunity to put his power on display. Could it be that the primary lesson for his disciples here was to teach them the importance of waiting on him.** In my opinion, I believe it is safe to say that had they waited they may have avoided this entire ordeal. I don’t need a storm to prove to me that God/Jesus has all power. And no doubt, storms will come but I would much rather have Jesus in the boat than to need Jesus to come and get me on the water.

Isaiah 40:31 “But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”

Psalms 27:14 “Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!”

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Acts 1:4-5 “⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for

the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Second, Jesus even has power over nature. V19a “They had rowed three or four miles when suddenly they saw Jesus walking on the water toward the boat.” Church, let me remind us that there is nothing too hard or impossible for God. As we have traveled through the record of John regarding the miracles of Jesus we have learned and, hopefully, believed that Jesus has power of quality, distance, time, and quantity. Now we see here that Jesus even has power over nature. He walks on the water and not just any water, stormy water. A storm, no matter how fierce (literally or metaphorically), is no obstacle to Jesus. I think it is necessary for us to properly imagine what the scene may have looked like. Crashing waves, gale force winds, torrential rains and here comes Jesus walking on the storm or, maybe, through the storm, or even, in the storm. Either way, Jesus is there in the storm. Did you catch that? Jesus is there, in our storms of life seeing us through. Fix your eyes, or better yet, your ears on him and do not be afraid or terrified. A storm, no matter how fierce (literally or metaphorically), is no obstacle to Jesus. There is nothing we will face in life that Jesus cannot fix or see us through. He even has power over nature.

Matt 8:23-27 “²³ Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. ²⁵ Then His disciples came to *Him* and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!” ²⁶ But He said to them, “Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?” Then He arose and rebuked

the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷ So the men marveled, saying, “Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Mark 11:12-14, 20-21 “¹² Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. ¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ In response Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.” ²⁰ Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. ²¹ And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.”

Finally, we must learn to listen to the voice of the Lord. V19b-21 “They were terrified, ²⁰but he called out to them, “Don’t be afraid. I am here! ²¹Then they were eager to let him in the boat, and immediately they arrived at their destination!” The disciples are already afraid, and they see Jesus coming on the water not realizing it is Jesus. And their fear is amplified to terror. But notice here, though they could not make out who it was, they knew his voice. And I am convinced that the opportunity for the church today is to stop looking for God/Jesus but rather to learn to recognize and listen to his voice. (tell the pilot story) Church, do we know God’s/Jesus’ voice, and do we listen when we hear it? If you cannot say for sure that you do, do not fret the Holy Spirit is able to help us.

John 10:27-28 “²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

Maybe today you realize you do not hear Christ's voice. I want you to know it is not too late. Christ speaks today and if you hear him simply say yes Lord. Brothers and Sisters, the power of Jesus. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.