

PENTECOST 5 (2018)
Mark 4

Mark 4:35–41 On that day, when evening had come, [Jesus] said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. *And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” And he awoke* and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even wind and sea obey him?”

In the Name of Jesus.

See what you get when you WAKE JESUS UP!
Rebuke AND SILENCING! The storm AND ourselves!
I’m NOT telling you NOT to wake Him up. But as the Lord told Job from the storm—same WORD, by the way, as the STORM in the Gospel lesson!—‘Dress for action like a man; I will question you!’

I know what y'all have been doing this week! As the saying goes: 'Even a blind hog finds an acorn now and then!' Y'all have been praying for your pastor!

I sent Jesus to bed last night!

Acts, chapter 10: Saint Peter recounts that he and the other chosen witnesses of the Risen Jesus 'ate and drank WITH HIM—WITH HIM,' during the forty days before His Ascension!

There is NO CHANCE, my dear ones, that the Son of God, Who DELIGHTED to call Himself 'The Son of MAN,' One of US, in ANY WAY shook OFF any BIT of what WE ARE—Jesus and US! So, even if He doesn't NEED to eat and drink, He does—for us, for joy, to praise His Father Who opens His hand and satisfies the desires of every living thing. The Creed says He is 'inferior to the Father, in regard to His manhood!'

Oh, and I don't CARE FOR THAT!

There is only ONE REASON that I can figure out why there are moms and dads in this world:
FOR...THEIR...CHILDREN!

And there is only ONE REASON The Son of God is now and for good The Son of Man: For us! His brothers and sisters and disciples and little ones, with little or no faith in Him!

And yet, He sleeps! Didn't Jesus KNOW that a STORM was on the way?! 'COURSE He did! Two storms, in fact! Whipped wind on the Sea of Galilee—and God.

And He was 'asleep!' 'Asleep on a cushion,' while the boat was filling with water.

Your King, our Christ, is NOT pacing back and forth as the Right Hand of the Father, rubbing HIS HANDS with anxiety over how things are going to turn out for us and with us!

Or He WOULD'NA FALLEED ASLEEP!

Nor would He have died!

Nor would He have left the Glad Tidings of His Rising

to the women who, ‘trembling and bewildered, fled from the tomb and told no one nothin’, for they were afraid!’

Oh, the Lord has THIS UTTER CONFIDENCE in US: He has no confidence in us at all!

That we are going to become masters of faith; OR love!

That we can meet with His Father on our own, and bear that Storm!

That we are going to stop panicking, just because the waves are breaking into the boat and the boat is filling with water!

2 "Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

He eats; He drinks; and I will not be convinced that He does not SLEEP STILL! Isn't sleeping well great?! Especially with a nice cushion, a pillow!

And how GOD does all the GOD stuff—Jesus took care of that gestating inside Mary and asleep in the manger and dead in the tomb—NOT our PROBLEM!

And we can let God worry about being God—in fact, that's the whole answer to y'all's prayers this week:

GOD...WILL...NOT...DEMOTE...US...TO...BEIN
G...HIM!!!!!!!!!!

And Christ is NOT 'INFERIOR' to the Father in regard to His MANHOOD! In fact, He is even more dear to the Father than He was WITHOUT His Incarnation!

And so:

You and I cry out to that heaven does not care about us:

When work is what work is;

And the people supposedly dear to us are less than dear;

And those TRULY dear to us are being swamped;

And, worst of all, we see so little faith in ourselves; WHEN are we going to PROVE that we have learned ANYTHING from the Spirit Who lives in us?!!!

If we are being told to do ANYTHING AT ALL, by the lesson today, it is this:

RIGHT THERE—in the very MIDST of our WORST OF ALL SHOWING:

Tell the Father above to serve us again, and His Son—why else IS THERE A GOD?!!!

And tell Him to send Jesus to sleep; not worried at all about how things are going to turn out with us in this world or the next; with men or with the LEAST of our worries: the Storm that is God!

And, with the Spirit's work, with our Baptism still drowning us, with His Body and His Blood—eating and drinking with us STILL!—

WE will not DEMOTE OURSELVES as those made to lick the boots of the Big Man upstairs!

Instead, we will put God in HIS place, the place He loves best: to be our Father, our Friend, our Savior, our Brother, our Teacher, our Christ, our King.

So WE can remain what the Lord knows and smiles about each time He falls into a comfy nap:

Dr Martin Luther, writing to his friend, Philip

If you are a preacher of grace, then preach a true and not a fictitious grace; if grace is true, you must bear a true and not a fictitious sin. God does not save people who are only fictitious sinners. Be a sinner and sin

boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly, for he is victorious over sin, death, and the world. As long as we are here [in this world] we have to sin. This life is not the dwelling place of righteousness, but, as Peter says, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. It is enough that by the riches of God's glory we have come to know the Lamb that takes away the sin of the world. No sin will separate us from the Lamb, even though we commit fornication and murder a thousand times a day. Do you think that the purchase price that was paid for the redemption of our sins by so great a Lamb is too small? Pray boldly—you too are a mighty sinner.

Your Jesus says to you:

4 "When through fiery trials thy pathway will lie,
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.
The flames will not hurt you; I only design
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.