

Jesus teaches his sovereignty and two natures (cf the person of Christ)

Lord Save us

The disciples addressed Jesus as "Lord" which is the Hebrew Adonai, the word that stands for Jehovah. Jesus asked "Why are you timid, little faiths?" (cf. Matthew 6.30, 14.31, 16.8 & Luke 12.28) The very thought of losing their lives against huge waves struck fear into the whole crew. Jesus rebuke to the wind and waves and the resulting "great calm" drew the sweet though awed response, "What manner of person is this that winds and waves listen to Him?" Literally "from where or what country is this one?"(The Greek original is **ποταπος**) The very ability to rise in face of the might of such wind and the verbal control of the raging elements were uncanny enough to suggest one from another sphere who can live without being affected by the world around. This contrasts with the "human tiredness" of the previous lesson to show how the two natures in Christ are unmixed & unconfused as the Chalcedonian definition of 451 AD states.

The Gergesene testimony to Jesus

Two who had allowed demons to control their lives (the middle voice word **δαιμονιζομενοι** in the original "carries the sense of willing engagement/opening themselves to demons) Their wild nature and strength in effect rendered the east bank of the Sea of Galilee impassable. Their demonic fear and sense of judgement found words, "Jesus Son of God have you come to be the touchstone of our lives and judge us before the time of judgment.? The disciples were introduced to the gripping fear that exists in the twilight world of evil spirits. Here they observe the rebellion of rebel spirits who live in awe of Jesus as God. This lesson will impact their later ministry. The request to enter the swine was designed to buy time away from the chains of outer darkness (cf. Jude 6). The fear in the swine resulted in a great loss of livestock but also the disembodiment of these spirits. The fear of the Gergesenes is demonstrated in the great numbers that came to oppose Him-despite which when they saw Him they approached Him with great caution and called on Him (the word **παρακαλεω** can carry the meaning "foment a call" or "implore" to leave *quickly* cf. the Greek word **μεταβαινω**)

The healing of the paralytic

This miracle took place in Capernaum. In His own home there Jesus taught the most uplifting lesson ever -that of forgiveness. The fact that a paralysed man was brought to Him by people who believed He could reverse a systemic illness- the loss of power in the body-or one side of the body brought joy to the lord-says Matthew. "He saw their faith" and now we are shown what He will do in response to faith. He will lift the burden of sin first. This faith of course of the carriers was joined by that of the man they carried-whose agreement to their purpose is implicit.. So faith in Jesus Christ and a heart that is penitent and lowly brings the joy of the great burden of sin being lifted. The scribes present charge the Lord with "Blasphemy" and state that only God can forgive. Jesus declares again in terms of the Daniel 7.13 "son of man" passage which they would have known that he is ultimate Judge and has power on earth to forgive sins. This entails "holding such power through all history-in the time of Daniel and before as in New Testament times. This "authority"(The Greek term is **εξουσια**) signifies the "power of His office" or as with Roman government "the power of the bedchamber" that is, recognising the Supremacy of Caesar. So again forgiveness is the prerogative of the "Son of Man" as judge- ever and conclusively His right.

From paper to practice



Give examples of the two natures in our Lord Jesus Christ.

What has the psychology of demons to teach us about the authority of Christ?

By what right does Christ forgive?