

What Sort Of Man?

Ponder: What was Jesus like?

Scripture: “What sort of man is this that even winds and sea obey Him?” (Matthew 8:27 ESV).

Who hasn't wondered what Jesus was like in person? Isaiah prophesied that Messiah would be rather ordinary-looking (53:2) – nothing like the tall, handsome King Saul. But what was His voice like? How did He carry Himself when He walked? The easy answer is: “We don't know!”

When Jesus had miraculously stilled the storm on the Sea of Galilee, His disciples were so amazed that they asked, “What sort of man is this?” Mark and Luke have them asking, “Who is this?” The meaning is the same. Obviously they weren't asking what His name was. But they knew He wasn't just another miracle-worker like Moses, Elijah, and others they had learned about in the Synagogue.

In time, they would fully realize that Jesus was God in the flesh. But for now, this miracle taught them some things about Jesus that are good for us to know and appreciate also. One of those is that Jesus was fully human (as well as divine); He had the same needs that we have. One was the need for rest. Jesus became tired and needed sleep. No sooner had they launched the boat than Jesus went to sleep in the stern.

Brother J.W. McGarvey's harmony of the gospels, entitled “The Fourfold Gospel,” indicates that Jesus may have taught as many as seven parables during the day before calming the storm that evening. Mark 4:34 tells us that He also explained the parables to the Twelve when they were alone. Now, anyone who thinks a day filled with preaching and teaching isn't exhausting should give it a try! “Come on in, the water's fine!”

Jesus was not a Superman character. Indeed, as Hebrews 2:17 says, “in all things He had to be made like His brethren.” Temptations didn't bounce off of Him like bullets off of Superman. When Jesus didn't eat, He became hungry; when He was wounded, He bled and suffered pain. And here, He became exhausted and fell into a sleep so deep that He didn't awaken even when the waves sent water crashing into the boat.

Jesus knows the struggles you face daily. He faced them, too, and overcame them by faith. More on that in another devotional!

Song: “Master, The Tempest Is Raging”

Prayer: “Father in heaven, we thank You for giving us a faithful and merciful High Priest Who sympathizes with us in the trials we face here on earth. Help us, we pray, to trust Him, to learn from Him, and to imitate Him. In His name, Amen.

Joe Slater (Justin, TX)

jaslater1954@gmail.com