

Title: THERE FROM THE BEGINNING, MARK 4:35 – 41
(Chatham, NJ; 06/24/12, AM) [D, E – Topical, Inductive]

Theme: The incident on the Sea of Galilee when Jesus calmed the wind and waves demonstrated to the disciples that Jesus was no ordinary human.

Purpose: To bring us to the conclusion that Jesus was higher than any other man, and to persuade us to preach that message to others.

Introduction:

1. Religious literacy, knowledge of the teachings of Christianity, has suffered at the hands of experience in religion and moral living.
2. Though these are important for the Christian, knowledge of who Christ is won't allow us to separate doctrine from morality.
3. Christian doctrine is more than a water boy for morality.
4. The morality taught by Jesus comes directly from the nature of God.
5. His moral teachings are reality, laws woven into the fabric of the universe.
6. We need to know the truth about who Jesus is to fully grasp his morals.
7. We also need to know it in order to set him apart from other religious founders.
8. The disciples' experience on the Sea of Galilee is definitive.

I. What the Disciples Knew

A. About God

1. Deuteronomy 6:4 – He is one and the only one
2. Psalm 95:3-5, God created and owns all things; the Psalmist calls the assembly to worship and to heed his voice.
3. Exodus 20:2 – he is the foundation for all their laws
4. God presence is everywhere: Jeremiah 23:24 – fills heaven and earth; 1 Kings 8:27 – heaven and earth cannot contain him.

B. The Book of Jonah (he could not escape God)

1. The story, more than anything else, hinges on 4:2, the nature of God's love
2. Just as important is 1:9; when Jonah reveals that his God created everything, we have it affirmed that the God of Israel created all things
3. 1:15-16, the sea grew calm (eerily foreshadowing of the Sea of Galilee?); they "feared the Lord exceedingly."

II. What They Saw on the Sea of Galilee, Mark 4:35 – 41 ("Who then is this," they ask, "that even the wind and sea obey him?")

A. Questions about Jesus swirled around him throughout his ministry

1. The man born blind put the logic of his miraculous cure together.
2. "If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." (9:33)
3. Later when people disputed about him some asked this question, "Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?" (10:21)

B. Who can control the wind and the waves?

1. They had already seen him turn water to wine, John 2
2. At another time he walked on the water
3. Now he calms a storm
4. In the boat they ask the right question though they are puzzled

III. What they concluded

A. John's Gospel

1. The prologue, 1:1-4, tells us what John concluded
2. Jesus claims to be divine, "I am" statement in 8:58
3. The signs which he performed demonstrate it
4. Thomas testifies to it, 20:28

B. Essential to our faith

1. Christianity is different because Christ is different
2. He is the logos, the word, that upholds the universe
3. Through him all things were created, Col. 1:16
4. "Exact imprint" of his nature, Heb. 1:3

Conclusion:

1. The disciples, who believed and knew the true God, concluded that Jesus was God in human form.
2. He was present at creation "In the beginning."
3. He knows the moral laws that govern us because he made them.
4. All the things he did and said lead to that conclusion.
5. The Resurrection opened their eyes to this truth.
6. Thus our faith has the power to exclude all other faiths.
7. This is the Jesus we that all men must believe in and obey.
8. Believe in and obey him today.