

GOD'S GREATNESS UNNOTICED

Mark 6:45-52

Introduction: Jesus had been teaching, ministering and needed some time to Himself, so He sent His disciples across the lake after sending the crowd of people back to their homes. He went off to pray and meditate, to just be alone with God His heavenly Father. As the disciples sailed across the lake, strong winds came up and the waves became violent, causing the disciples to be unable to control the boat, thus creating fear among them. Suddenly Jesus appeared near them and stopped the winds and calmed the rough waves, and brought the boat safely to shore, thus amazing the disciples, but upsetting Jesus. Jesus was disappointed in the reaction of His disciples to what He did in stopping the winds and waves.

I. THE DISCIPLES' ASTONISHMENT REVEALED TRAITS WE ALSO EXHIBIT

1. They revealed their ignorance of the "real" Jesus.
 - They didn't recognize Jesus and had thought of Him as an ordinary man like themselves. If they had recognized Jesus to be the God of heaven and earth, they would no more have wondered at the sea even than at an ordinary man walking on dry land.
 - Jesus had been teaching and proclaiming that He was the Son of God in the flesh. He had proved Himself to be so by His innumerable miracles done in His own name and by His own power. Somehow they just didn't recognize Him as such and never saw Him as God in the flesh. When Jesus calmed the waters, they said, "*...what manner of man is this...?*" They were surprised at what Jesus did for they had always thought of Jesus as being just like themselves. Just an ordinary man.
2. They revealed their forgetfulness.
 - It hadn't been 12 hours since they had seen and even been a part of a miracle where over 5,000 people had been fed by Jesus and even had 10 times that much left over.
 - If they had remembered that miracle, then they would not have been so surprised at what Jesus did on the lake, which was no greater miracle than that which they had just seen Him do and even been a part of themselves.
 - Therefore, having forgotten so quickly what they had just seen Jesus do, they were astonished.
3. They revealed their indifference.
 - It seems they had not been very impressed with the miracle of feeding the 5,000 plus, for if they had, they would never have been filled with such overpowering astonishment at what happened on the water.
 - They were astonished and wondered because they still didn't believe in their hearts that Jesus was really who He said He was, the Son of God in the flesh.
4. At times Christians act and react as the disciples did concerning Jesus and who He is and what He can do and does. We try to make Him like us and He isn't. We forget things He has done for us in the past and we are indifferent at times at the great things Jesus does for others.

II. SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD/JESUS

1. Consider what we can expect from God.
 - It is natural for us to consider the difficulties we face and our inabilities and what we are asking of God. So often in the back of our minds is the doubt that God won't hear or answer our prayers.
 - We need to remember what God has ALREADY done for us. His past actions and mercies are the standard by which we can expect God to act in our present and future.
 - We need God's power. Think of the proof God has already given that His power is sufficient for us. Is there anything God cannot do?
 - When we need God's grace, what has God already done to give us an idea of His grace?
 - What about Him giving us His only begotten Son to become one of us, to bear our sins, to sacrifice Himself in order to return us to God's favor?
 - What did Jesus do for those who flocked to Him just out of curiosity? Would He do less for us, His Family, His chosen disciples?
 - What God has done in the past, He will continue to do in the future and that will be sufficient for us.

2. How should we express our gratitude?
 - We should not be lost in wonder in that God even recognized and heard us and helped us.
 - If a person was rich, known for his benevolence, should help a needy family, would that surprise us? Would not his benevolent act only prove his kindness and generosity to anyone in need? The man was just being himself. Thus it is with God.
 - Whenever we receive from God, let us not be filled with wonder or amazement, but regard His mercies as proof of who and what He is, a sovereign God, unbounded, unlimited in whatever He chooses to do for whomever He chooses to do it for or to.
 - For us to admire His goodness, there is no limit for in doing so is to resemble the angels in heaven. The more, the better.
 - There can be no excess in what we do for God and Jesus, either in body or in soul.
 - It is only "wonder" that we need to exclude because that is the expression of ignorance, forgetfulness and indifference.

CONCLUSION:

1. As we encounter storms and upsets in life, struggle in vain, the situation seemingly hopeless, let us remember that there is ONE who is both able and willing to save us, IF we call upon Him.
 - He is nearer than He may seem and with Him, all things are possible.
 - Rest assured that what He has done for others, He will do for us as well.

2. As we have been delivered from troubles in times past, let us keep on remembering what it was like till Jesus stepped in. We were hopeless, nobody could help except Jesus.
 - Let us never "wonder" why God does what He does for God is fulfilling His own self, displaying His character. He is almighty and is doing what He wants to do for and to whomever He pleases.
 - Therefore, let us give God the glory for all that He has done, is doing and shall do.