

What Kind of Man is this?

Brandon Phillips / General Adult

The King and His Glory / Matthew 8:23–27

In Matthew 8:23-27, Matthew provides the first of three amazing proofs that Jesus is the sovereign King over all of His creation.

Pre-sermon Comments

Romans 8:28 LSB

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

Introduction to our Text

Luke 18:17 LSB

¹⁷ “Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.”

Section Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 8:23-9:8](#), Matthew provides three amazing proofs that Jesus is the sovereign King over all of His creation. As His disciple, you should recognize:

- His Authority Over the Physical World ([Matt 8:23-27](#))
- His Authority Over the Spiritual Realm ([Matt 8:28-34](#))
- His Authority to Forgive Your Sin ([Matt 9:1-8](#))

Review

The disciples followed Jesus' initiative in getting into the boat indicating that this nature miracle is also a test of discipleship.

John 3:2 LSB

² this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Matthew 27:57-58 LSB

⁵⁷ Now when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given *to him*.

Sermon Text

Matthew 8:18-27 LSB

¹⁸ Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side *of the sea*. ¹⁹ Then a scribe came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." ²⁰ And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air *have* nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." ²¹ And another of the disciples said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." ²² But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead." ²³ And when He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was sleeping. ²⁵ And they came to *Him* and got Him up, saying, "Save *us*, Lord; we are perishing!" ²⁶ And He said to them, "Why are you *so* cowardly, you men of little faith?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm. ²⁷ And the men marveled, and said, "What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?"

Sermon Proposition and Outline

In [Matthew 8:23-27](#), Matthew provides the first of three amazing proofs that Jesus is the sovereign King over all of His creation.

As His disciple: **You should recognize His Authority Over Our Physical World**

In this passage, we will follow the disciples as they recognize His power over His creation. We will see:

- **The Disciples Encounter the Fury of the Storm ([Matt 8:23-25](#))**
- **The Disciples Experience Fear of Destruction ([Matt 8:25](#))**
- **The Disciples Endure the Fury of the Lord's Rebuke ([Matt 8:26a](#))**
- **The Disciples Became Eyewitnesses of the Lord's Power ([Matt 8:26b](#))**
- **The Disciples Excitedly (and Fearfully) Responded to the Miracle ([Matt 8:27](#))**

The Disciples Encountered the Fury of the Storm ([Matt 8:23-24](#))

The Fishing Boat

Matthew 8:23 LSB

²³ And when He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.

The Great Storm

Matthew 8:24 LSB

²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was sleeping.

Matthew 8:24 NKJV

²⁴ And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

Matthew 8:24 NIV

²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping.

The storm was so violent that it shook the water in the lake as if it were a glass of water in the hands of a great giant. ~ John MacArthur

The Peril

Matthew 8:24 LSB

²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was sleeping.

Mark 4:37 LSB

³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat so that the boat was already filling up.

The Sovereign One

Matthew 8:24 LSB

²⁴ And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being covered with the waves; but Jesus Himself was sleeping.

Mark 4:38 LSB

³⁸ And Jesus Himself was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion; and they got Him up and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

Philippians 2:6–7 LSB

⁶ who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men.

Discussion Questions

What details about the fishing boat in [Matthew 8](#) help us better understand the disciples’ situation during the storm?

Why do you think Matthew chose the word seismos (a shaking) to describe this storm? How does that intensify the picture of what the disciples faced?

What stands out to you about the contrast between the disciples' panic and Jesus' sleep?

Some commentators suggest the storm may have been demonic in origin, while others emphasize it was naturally occurring but sovereignly used by God. What does this teach us about God's authority over both natural and supernatural forces?

Why is it significant that Jesus, fully God, chose in His humanity to sleep during this storm? What does this reveal about His trust in the Father?

How does [Philippians 2:6–7](#) deepen our understanding of Jesus' humanity in this scene?

The disciples probably saw the storm coming but didn't recognize its full intensity until it was upon them. Can you think of a time when you felt overwhelmed by a sudden or unexpected trial? How did you respond?

In moments when life feels like a “mega storm,” what tends to dominate your heart—fear, faith, or something else? Why?

Jesus was at rest in the storm because of His trust in the Father. What practices or truths help you rest in God's sovereignty when you are in the middle of your own storms?

How can this passage encourage us to grow in faith so that our first response in trials is to trust God rather than panic?

The Disciples Experienced Fear of Destruction ([Matt 8:25](#))

Matthew 8:25 LSB

²⁵ And they came to *Him* and got Him up, saying, “Save *us*, Lord; we are perishing!”

Mark 4:38 LSB

³⁸ And Jesus Himself was in the stern, sleeping on the cushion; and they got Him up and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?”

Luke 8:24 LSB

²⁴ And they came to Him and woke Him up, saying, “Master, Master, we are perishing!” And He woke up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm.

The Disciples Endured the Fury of the Lord’s Rebuke ([Matt 8:26a](#))

Matthew 8:26 LSB

²⁶ And He said to them, “Why are you so cowardly, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.

The Storms of Life

Psalms 91 LSB

¹ He who abides in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say to Yahweh, “My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!” ³ For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper *And* from the destructive pestilence. ⁴ He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you will take refuge; His truth is a large shield and bulwark. ⁵ You will not be afraid of terror by night, Or arrow that flies by day; ⁶ Of pestilence that moves in darkness, Or of destruction that devastates at noon. ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, *But* it shall not approach you. ⁸ You will only look on with your eyes And see the recompense of the wicked. ⁹ For you have made Yahweh—my refuge, The Most High—your dwelling place. ¹⁰ No evil will befall you, And no plague will come near your tent. ¹¹ For He will command His angels concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. ¹² On their

hands they will bear you up, Lest you strike your foot against a stone.¹³ You will tread upon the fierce lion and cobra, The young lion and the serpent you will trample down.¹⁴ “Because he has loved Me, therefore I will protect him; I will set him *securely* on high, because he has known My name.¹⁵ “He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in *his* distress; I will rescue him and honor him.¹⁶ “With a long life I will satisfy him And I will show him My salvation.”

The Disciples Became Eyewitnesses of the Lord’s Power ([Matt 8:26b](#))

The Mega Storm Turns to Mega Calm

Matthew 8:26 LSB

²⁶ And He said to them, “Why are you so cowardly, you men of little faith?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.

[Colossians 1:16–17](#) (LSB)

¹⁶ For in Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.¹⁷ And He is before all things, And in Him all things hold together.

Psalms 89:8–9 LSB

⁸ O Yahweh God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty Yah? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.⁹ You rule the swelling of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them.

Psalms 107:23–30 LSB

²³ Those who go down to the sea in ships, Who do business on many waters;²⁴ They have seen the works of Yahweh, And His wondrous deeds in the deep.²⁵ He spoke and set up a stormy wind, Which raised up the waves of the sea.²⁶ They went up to the heavens, they went down to the depths; Their soul melted away in *the* calamity.²⁷ They staggered and swayed like a drunken man, And all their wisdom was swallowed up.²⁸ Then they cried to Yahweh in their trouble, And He

brought them out of their distresses.²⁹ He caused the storm to stand still, So that its waves were hushed.³⁰ Then they were glad because they were quiet, So He led them to their desired haven.

Discussion Questions:

Why is it significant that seasoned fishermen like the disciples were terrified during this storm ([Matt. 8:25](#))?

How do the three gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke) add different shades of meaning to the disciples' cry for help? What does this tell us about their desperation?

Why do you think Jesus rebuked the disciples for being cowardly and having little faith rather than immediately calming the storm ([Matt. 8:26](#))?

Can you recall a time in your life when you felt completely powerless and had no option but to call out to God? How did He answer?

The sermon notes that even after witnessing God's power, believers often fall into doubt and fear when the next trial comes. Why do you think that happens?

The preacher mentioned his health struggles leading him to live daily in dependence on God. How has God used difficulties in your own life to deepen your faith?

What "storms" are you currently facing that tempt you to respond in fear rather than faith?

How can we remind ourselves daily that Jesus is both powerful enough to calm the storm and compassionate enough to care for us in it?

[Psalm 91](#) promises God's protection and presence in times of danger. How can we practically cling to those promises in moments of fear or uncertainty?

The disciples, though cowardly here, would later be used to spread the gospel with great courage. How does this encourage you when you feel weak in your faith?

How might our struggles with fear actually serve to magnify Christ's strength and sufficiency in our lives?

The Disciples Excitedly (and Fearfully) Responded to the Miracle ([Matt 8:27](#))

The Men Marveled

Matthew 8:27 LSB

²⁷ And the men marveled, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

The word “marveled” is the Greek θαυμάζω (*thaumazō*). It is a key word throughout the Gospels and Acts. In most occurrences it is used to describe people's reaction to something said about Jesus or accomplished by Him which evidenced His deity and sovereign power. ~ LSB Translation notes

Mark 4:41 LSB

⁴¹ And they became very afraid and were saying to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?”

What Kind of Man Is This?

Matthew 8:27 LSB

²⁷ And the men marveled, and said, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”

Hebrews 4:15 LSB

¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things like *we are*, yet without sin.

Philippians 2:5–8 LSB

⁵ Have this *way of* thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Exodus 34:34–35 LSB

³⁴ But whenever Moses went in before Yahweh to speak with Him, he would take off the veil until he came out; and then he would come out and speak to the sons of Israel what he had been commanded, ³⁵ and the sons of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone. So Moses would return the veil over his face until he went in to speak with Him.

Job 42:5–6 LSB

⁵ “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; But now my eye sees You; ⁶ Therefore I reject *myself*, And I repent in dust and ashes.”

Isaiah 6:1 LSB

¹ In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

Isaiah 6:5 LSB

⁵ Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts.”

Daniel 10:8–9 LSB

⁸ So I alone remained and saw this great *vision* that appeared; yet no might remained in me, for my *outward* splendor turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no might. ⁹ But I heard the sound of his words; and as soon as I heard the sound of his words, I fell into a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

Matthew 17:2 LSB

² And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.

Matthew 17:5–6 LSB

⁵ While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!” ⁶ And when the disciples heard *this*, they fell on their faces and were terrified.

Luke 5:8 LSB

⁸ But when Simon Peter saw *this*, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!”

Acts 9:3–4 LSB

³ And as he was traveling, it happened that when he was approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; ⁴ and falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

Acts 9:8 LSB

⁸ And Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing. Leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.

Revelation 1:17–18 LSB

¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not fear; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

God’s majesty is so overwhelming that when He displays Himself in even a small part of His glory men cannot stand in His presence. These disciples suddenly realized that God was standing in the very boat with them, and they were terrified by His power and His holiness. ~ John MacArthur

Conclusion:

Discussion Questions

In [Matthew 8:27](#), the disciples marveled and asked, “What kind of man is this?” — why do you think this question is so central to the passage?

The disciples went from fearing the storm to fearing Jesus with “mega fear.” What does this tell us about the difference between fearing circumstances and fearing the Lord?

Pastor Brandon compared the disciples’ reaction to other biblical figures (Moses, Job, Isaiah, Daniel, Peter, Paul, John) who encountered God’s glory. What similarities do you notice in their responses?

How do these responses to God’s majesty help us better understand His holiness and power?

RC Sproul described Jesus as “alien” to the disciples. What do you think he meant by that, and how does it deepen our understanding of Christ’s uniqueness?

Why is it dangerous to emphasize Jesus’s humanity at the expense of His deity—or vice versa?

How does the disciples’ question, “What kind of man is this?” connect with the truths of [Hebrews 4:15](#) and [Philippians 2:5–8](#)?

What are some ways we might treat Jesus too casually, forgetting His majesty and holiness?

The sermon ended with the reminder that many people acknowledge Jesus as a prophet, teacher, or moral example, but not as Lord. How would you explain to someone why it matters to believe Jesus is truly the Son of God?

How does a right understanding of Jesus’s deity and humanity affect your daily walk with Him (prayer, worship, obedience)?

If someone asked you today, “What kind of man is Jesus?” — how would you answer them?

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[Gen 1:1](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[Psalms 24:1](#)—*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

Is Perfectly Holy

[1 John 1:5](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[Matt 5:48](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[James 2:10](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

Man

Has broken God's law

[Rom 3:10,23](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[Rom. 6:23](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—*He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—*For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form*

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—*But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—*He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—*And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures*

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—*Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

[Luke 9:23](#)—*if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.*

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—*that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.*

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—*therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.*

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

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Additional Quotes