

Taking Christ As He Is

No. 170

Introduction.

I. Mark records these words in the 4th chapter of his gospel. (Mk. 4:35-41).

MAR 35 And on that day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side."

36 And leaving the multitude, they took Him along with them, just as He was, in the boat; and other boats were with Him. 37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up. 38 And He Himself was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" 39 And being aroused, He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Hush, be still." And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm. 40 And He said to them, "Why are you so timid? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 And they became very much afraid and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?"

II. In this thrilling story, of Jesus stilling the tempest, we have an expression that is very meaningful.

A. In verse 36 it says **"they took Him along with them, just as He was."**

B. If we expect Christ to still the tempests in our lives, we must take Him as He is! We dare not try to change or modify or modernize or streamline the perfect Christ or we cannot have the blessings He offers. We must take Him even as He is, or not at all.

I. **The Godhead** - Christ cannot be separated from the Godhead.

A. For some strange reason, some would like to take Christ if they could separate Him from the Godhead and make Him nothing more than a man.

B. This cannot be, for Christ is so linked with God and the Holy Spirit that you "cannot have the One without the Other."

1. Jn. 1:1-3, 14, 18; 10:30; 14:9; Col. 1:15; 2:9

2. These scriptures declare that we cannot separate Christ from the Godhead. He is a part of the glorious Godhead and was God (Deity) in the flesh. His name Immanuel means "God with us." (Matt. 1:23).

II. **Miraculous Birth** - Christ cannot be separated from His miraculous birth.

A. If one would take Christ as He is, he will have to believe in the virgin birth.

1. Joseph learned that his betrothed was pregnant. He knew he was not the father, and thought some other man had to be the father. The angel said. (Matt. 1:23).

2. In Luke's account we find these words. (Lk. 1:26-35).

1:26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth,

27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

29 But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end. "

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

B. **How could one believe in Christ and refuse to believe in the virgin birth?** How could one believe in the Bible and refuse to believe in the virgin birth? Those who reject the virgin birth reject the Deity of Christ and reject the inspiration of the Bible.

III. **Atoning Blood** - Christ cannot be separated from His atoning blood.

A. Some claim to believe in Christ but reject the power of His atoning blood. They claim the blood of Christ has no saving power and is repugnant to modern man.

1. The Bible says He is the One "whom God has set forth to be a propitiation, through faith in His blood." (Rom. 3:25).

2. Notice that it is "through faith in His blood" that we have salvation. (Matt. 26:28; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:22; 1 Pet. 1:19; 1 Jn. 1:7).

B. The Bible plainly teaches that Christ shed His blood for our sins. His blood is precious and saves those who trust in it. You must accept Jesus and His atoning blood to be saved.

IV. **Resurrection** - Christ cannot be separated from His resurrection.

A. Some claim to accept Christ, but deny His resurrection.

1. But how could one accept Christ, but deny His resurrection.

2. So much of Jesus' identity rests upon whether or not He was raised from the dead. (Rom. 1:4). Paul affirms that it was by His resurrection that he was "declared to be the Son of God with power."

B. Regarding the resurrection, here are some facts that no scholar of any merit will question.

1. There was such a person as Jesus.

2. He lived in the time described in the New Testament.

3. He was put to death under Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberias Caesar.

4. He was crucified by Roman soldiers.

5. The dead body was taken from the cross, and placed in the tomb of Joseph.

6. A huge stone was placed over the entrance of the tomb.

7. Guards were stationed there.

8. Upon the morning of the first Sunday following His burial, the body was missing.

C. The controversy, therefore, arises over what became of the body.

1. Christians believe on Sunday morning Jesus was raised from the dead. Unbelievers deny this.

2. May we ask, “**What happened to that body?**” It is a recognized fact that the body was not there.

3. **Did the disciples steal the body**, as the soldiers were bribed into saying? (Matt 28:11-15).

a. If so, how did they get by the guard? “Oh, but the soldiers were asleep!” someone says. What? A whole Roman guard asleep? Such is unthinkable, for the guarding of that body was their sole task. To fall asleep would mean the loss of their lives.

b. Why would the disciples have wanted to remove the body? They had lost faith in Christ when He was crucified and did not even believe that Christ has been resurrected until after Jesus’ appearance to them. Hence, they would not have stolen the body to prove the resurrection that they did not believe.

4. Did the enemies remove the body? If so, when the disciples preached about the resurrection, why didn’t they produce the body and therefore expose them as liars and end Christianity once and for all?

5. Beloved, there is no other explanation than that Christ arose from the dead as the Old Testament prophesied, and as all of the New Testament verifies.

V. **Authority** - Christ cannot be separated from His authority. (Matt. 28:18).

A. Jesus boldly affirmed He had “all authority in heaven and on earth” and it was given Him by God. Since Christ has all authority, then whatever He says must be respected and received.

B. The words that Christ has spoken will be the standard of our judgment. (Jn. 12:48).

C. To take Christ as He is, is to recognize His authority and completely submit to it. (Lk. 6:46; 2 Thess. 1:8, 9).

VI. **The Plan Of Salvation** - Christ cannot be separated from the plan of salvation.

A. If we take Christ as He is, we must do what Christ said to be saved.

1. One must believe in Christ. (Jn. 8:24; 3:36).

2. One must repent of his sins to be saved. (Lk. 13:3).

3. One must confess Christ. (Matt. 10:32, 33).

4. One must be baptized to be saved. (Mk. 16:16).
 - a. It is by baptism that one puts on Christ. (Gal. 3:26, 27).
 - b. It is by baptism that we enjoy the blessings of His death. (Rom. 6:3, 4).
- B. Unless a person is willing to say that Jesus spoke a lie, unless a person is willing to say that one can be saved without putting on Christ, unless a person is willing to say that one can be saved without the blessings of Christ's death, he must believe that baptism is essential to salvation.
 1. Taking Christ as He is means we must believe and obey what Christ and the apostles taught about salvation.
 2. We must not change or ignore His sacred word.

Conclusion.

- I. Beloved, are you ready to take Christ as He is!
 - A. Would you like to have God's **precious promises**? If so, you must heed God precepts.
 - B. Would you like to enjoy the **comforts** of the gospel? If so, you must employ the commands of the gospel.
 - C. Would you like to have access to the **dividends** of the gospel? If so, you must accept the demands of the gospel.
 - D. Christianity not only proposes some opportunities and blessings, but also imposes some obligations. Taking Christ as He is, means we must believe all that the Bible teaches about Him and we must obey His every word.
- II. **The story is told a little boy who came up the a preacher** one day and said, "Preacher, do you know me? You wiped the mud off me one day." Then the preacher remembered how the boy had passed his house one rainy day, had slipped down on the street and gotten his clothes muddy. The preacher took the boy into the back yard and scraped all the mud off his clothes. Then he took the boy into the kitchen, cleaned him up and sent him on to school. Now the boy said, "Preacher, don't you remember me? You wiped the mud off me one day."
 - A. My friends, once many of us were like that little boy. We were stained with the sin of this world. But then we accepted Christ as He is and He cleansed us from all of our sins and sent us on our way rejoicing. And some day when we look into His lovely face, we say, "Dear Jesus, I am the one who was all covered with sin. One day You came and washed it all away and brought me home to heaven. Thank you, Jesus."
 - B. **Are you living for that wonderful Savior?** Have you accepted the wonderful Son of God who laid down His life for us? If not, repent, repent, repent! Come and confess Christ and be buried with Him in baptism and live for Him. Come as we stand and sing.

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
 © Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)