

JESUS THE KING
Lent Worship Series – Week 2
The Power
March 17, 2019

WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINES

Each worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed.

Announcements and Offering

Power Source

HC#71 – Power in the Blood SB#451 – Would you be free from your burden of sin?	HC-71 TB-945 – Wonder-working power	HCD6-T11 No CD
Additional Optional Songs		
HC#51 – Come into His Presence SB#331 – Come into His presence	HC-51 TB-591 – same	HCD4-T11 No CD
HC#81 – O God of Burning, Cleansing Flame	HC-81	HCD7-T11
SB#326 – Thou Christ of burning, cleansing flame	TB-294 – Send the fire	No CD
HC#93 – Holy, Holy, Holy SB#31 – Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!	HC-93 TB-771 – Nicaea	HCD8-T13 HTD2-T6 (4 vs.)
HC#99 – Shine, Jesus, Shine SB#261 – Lord, the light of Your love is shining	HC-99 TB-822 – same	HCD8-T19 No CD
HC#141- All Hail the Power SB#73 – All hail the power of Jesus’ name!	HC-141 TB-69 – Diadem TB-306 – Coronation	HCD13-T11 HTD6-T7 (4 vs.) HTD5-T5 (4 vs.)
HC#161 – My Great Redeemer’s Praise SB#89 – O for a thousand tongues to sing	HC-161 TB-57 – Azmon	HCD15-T11 HTD3-T4 (4 vs.)
SB#34 – I believe that God the Father	TB-360 – Bethany	HTD11-T1 (4 vs.)
SB#49 – O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder	TB-488 – How great Thou art!	HTD1-T12 (4 vs.)
SB#52 – O worship the king, all glorious above	TB-479 – Hanover	HTD4-T4 (3 vs.)
SB#167 – Hail, Thou once despised Jesus	TB-370 – Hyfrydol	HTD1-T14 (3 vs.) HCD10-T14

SB#283 – Come, Thou almighty king	TB-198 – Moscow TB-197 – Harland	HTD2-T2 (4 vs.) HTD10-T2 (3 vs.)
SB#298 – Come, Thou all inspiring Spirit	TB-370 – Hyfrydol	HTD1-T14 (3 vs.) HCD10-T14
SB#421 – Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?	TB-557 – Are you washed?	HTD7-T2 (3 vs.)

Call to Worship:

Jesus had begun to preach and teach publicly. His words were commanding and his commands were irresistible. News of him spread like wildfire, and soon there were crowds surging forward to see him. How did Jesus react? Mark writes:

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!” ³⁸ Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” (Mark 1:35-38, NIV)

(Jesus the King, p. 28)

Jesus got up very early to pray in a solitary place. Now Jesus knew well that he could not live without God; that if he was going to be forever giving out, he must be at least sometimes taking in; that if he was going to spend himself for others, he must ever and again summon spiritual reinforcements to his aid. He knew that he could not live without prayer. Jesus knew this; he knew that if he was to meet men he must first meet God. If prayer was necessary for Jesus, how much more must it be necessary for us?

(Barclay Commentary)

Real Power

HC#159 – Spirit of the Living God SB#313 – Spirit of the living God	HC-159 TB-611 – Fill me anew	HCD14-T19 No CD
Additional Optional Songs		
SB#312 – Spirit of the living God	TB-834 – same	HPC1-T29/30
SB#328 – To be like Jesus!	TB-898 – same	HPC1-T35/36
SB#786 – Silently now I wait for Thee	TB-827 – same	HPC1-T27/28
HC#49 – Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord SB#353 – Be still, for the presence of the Lord	HC-49 TB-566 – same	HCD3-T19 No CD
HC#79 – God in You, God in Me SB#299 – God in you, God in me	HC-79 TB-632 – God in you	HCD6-T19 No CD
HC#91 – Fan the Flame in Me SB#287 – Lord, renew in me the fire of Your Spirit	HC-91 TB-608 – same	HCD8-T11 No CD

HC-104 – God Is Spirit SB#284 – God is Spirit, Holy Spirit	HC-104 TB-634 – same (chorus only)	HCD9-T14 No CD
HC#133 – Breathe on Me	HC-133	HCD12-T13
HC#205 – Closer Still	HC-205	HCD19-T15

Prayers of Praise [Prayers from the congregation]

Pastoral Prayer

Drama: The Look

Reader 1: Although many would believe otherwise, there is nothing magical or extraordinary about the Look you get from your mother that keeps you in line. It’s just an expression of her motherly love and discipline that helps correct you when needed.

Reader 2: Jesus, on the other hand, could command nature itself, not with a look, but with the spoken word. “Peace. Be still.” With those words, the storm and waves ceased. Immediately. Now that’s real power.

Responsive Reading:

Leader: Each part of the story Mark tells reveals a little more of who Jesus is—his power, his purpose, and his self-understanding. Mark is revealing Jesus gradually, like an expert storyteller. Let’s get into the boat and learn about this power alongside Jesus’s disciples:

All: *³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”*

Leader: The Sea of Galilee sits 700 feet below sea level, and just 30 miles to the north is Mount Hermon, 9,200 feet high. The cold air from the mountains continually clashes with warm air coming up from the Sea of Galilee, and as a result there are impressive thunderstorms and squalls. Professional fishermen from Galilee were used to them. This storm must have been an incredible one, because experienced sailors though they were, they thought they were going to die. They cried out to Jesus, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” How did Jesus respond? Mark records:

All: *³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are*

you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

Leader: Jesus woke up, and two amazing things happened. He said: *Quiet! Be still!* That’s it. To a hurricane, Jesus simply says, *Quiet! Be still!*—just like you would talk to an unruly child. The more astonishing thing is that the storm obeyed like a compliant child. Now by his actions here Jesus is demonstrating, “I am not just someone who *has* power; I am power *itself*. Anyone and anything in the whole universe that has any power has it on loan from me.”

(Jesus the King, pp. 52-55; Mark 4:35-41, NIV)

SB#625 – The Lord is king! I own His power	TB-13 – Harton-Lea	HTD11-T5 (4 vs.)
Additional Optional Songs		
HC#49 – Be Still, for the Presence of the Lord	HC-49	HCD3-T19
SB#353 – Be still, for the presence of the Lord	TB-566 – same	No CD
SB#34 – I believe that God the Father	TB-360 – Bethany	HTD11-T1 (4 vs.)

Costly Power

Testimony of Faith – His Power [Choose someone from the congregation who can testify on this theme.]

Message – The Power

HC#247 – Still, My Soul, Be Still	HC-247	HCD23-T17
Additional Optional Songs		
HC#7 – Spirit of God, Descend	HC-7	HCD1A-T17
SB#290 – Spirit of God, descend upon my heart	TB-467 – same	No CD
HC#91 – Fan the Flame in Me	HC-91	HCD8-T11
SB#287 – Lord, renew in me the fire of Your Spirit	TB-608 – same	No CD
HC#104 – God Is Spirit	HC-104	HCD9-T14
SB#284 – God is Spirit, Holy Spirit	TB-634 – same (chorus only)	No CD
HC#117 – Draw Me Close	HC-117	HCD10-T17
HC#133 – Breathe on Me	HC-133	HCD12-T13
HC#159 – Spirit of the Living God	HC-159	HCD14-T19
SB#313 – Spirit of the living God	TB-611 – Fill me anew	No CD
HC#205 – Closer Still	HC-205	HCD19-T15

HC#213 – In the Presence of Jehovah	HC-213	HCD20-T13
HC#214 – Holy Spirit	HC-214	HCD20-T14
HC#219 – King of Kings, Majesty SB#376 – King of kings, majesty	HC-219 TB-722 – same	HCD20-T19 No CD
HC#236 – Lord, I Need You	HC-236	HCD22-T16
HC#245 – Known to You	HC-245	HCD23-T15
HC#249 – Near to the Heart of God	HC-249	HCD23-T19
SB#294 – Breathe on me, breath of God	TB-159 – Trentham TB-145 – Breath of God	HTD8-T17 (4 vs.) No CD
SB#301 – He wills that I should holy be	Old TB-13 – Boston TB-10 – Deep Harmony	HTD1-T4 (4 vs.) HTD5-T6 (4 vs.)
SB#303 – Lord, possess me now, I pray	TB-938 – With Thy Spirit fill me	No CD
SB#310 – Spirit divine, attend our prayers	TB-70 – Fewster	HTD3-T13 (4 vs.)
SB#316 – At the moment of my weakness	TB-658 – His Provision	No CD
SB#317 – Burning, burning, brightly burning	TB-318 – Burning, Burning	HTD1-T5 (3 vs.)
SB#323 – Lord, hear my prayer, Thy power I claim	TB-762 – Move, Holy Spirit!	No CD
SB#609 – My body, soul and spirit	TB-211 – My all is on the altar	HTD5-T14 (3 vs.)
SB#750 – Father, I know that all my life	TB-111 – Spohr	HTD10-T14 (3 vs.)
SB#786 – Silently now I wait for Thee	TB-827 – same	HPC1-T27/28
SB#787 – Sweet hour of prayer	TB-55 – same	HTD5-T22 (3 vs.)

Benediction:

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Amen.

(Ephesians 3:16-19, NIV)

HC#81 – O God of Burning, Cleansing Flame	HC-81	HCD7-T11
SB#326 – Thou Christ of burning, cleansing flame	TB-294 – Send the fire	No CD
Additional Optional Songs		
HC#99 – Shine, Jesus, Shine SB#261 – Lord, the light of Your love is shining	HC-99 TB-822 – same	HCD8-T19 No CD

HC#112 – The Potter’s Hand SB#355 – Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior	HC-112 TB-867 – same	HCD10-T12 No CD
HC#202 – O Church, Arise SB#819 – O Church, arise	HC-202 TB-777 – same	HCD19-T12 No CD

Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God by Timothy Keller, 2013; previously published as *King’s Cross: The Story of the World in the Life of Jesus*, 2011 (Penguin Books).

Lent 2019 Week #2	
DRAMA	
The Look	
By Martyn Scott Thomas	
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Topic:	God's power
Scripture:	Mark 4:35-41
Synopsis:	Four readers tell about the power in their mother's look.
Characters:	Reader 1 Reader 2 (teenager, if possible) Reader 3 (teenager, if possible) Reader 4 (male)
Props/Costumes:	None.
Setting:	Bare stage.
Running time:	3 minutes

[Readers are standing across the front of the stage.]

Reader 1: We've all gotten it at one time or another.

Reader 2: It shows no discrimination.

Reader 3: It knows no boundaries.

Reader 4: It's one of the most powerful forces on earth.

All: The Look!

Reader 1: It's one of your mother's most potent weapons.

Reader 2: It can send shivers down your spine.

Reader 3: It's more effective than your middle name.

Reader 4: It can stop you dead in your tracks.

All: The Look!

Reader 1: Once, I was trying to sneak a couple of cookies before dinner. As I reached into the cookie jar, I felt the hairs on the back of my neck stand straight up. I turned around and my mother was standing in the doorway of the kitchen with her gaze fixed upon me. I slowly lowered my hand to my side, turned, and walked quietly out of the kitchen. I may have hidden in my room until dinner.

Reader 3: The Look!

Reader 2: Last Sunday at church, I was minding my own business, doodling on the bulletin, when Sarah elbowed me and showed me this picture on her phone of a kitten dressed in a choir robe singing, “All creatures of our God and King.” Before I could tell her to put it away, I felt the laser beams. I turned and caught the Look right in my eyes. Immediately, Sarah dropped her phone and her body stiffened. We knew it was going to be a long ride home.

Reader 4: The Look!

Reader 3: We went to Olive Garden last Friday and just after our drinks came, I got hit in the face by a straw wrapper. I looked and saw Billy laughing with the straw still in his mouth. But before I could return fire, I knew I was caught in the cross hairs. I put my head down, knowing what was directed my way. [*arguing*] It’s not fair! Billy started it! But Mom sure finished it.

Reader 1: The Look!

Reader 4: And it’s not just the kids. Husbands are at risk, too. Case in point, we were at a wedding reception last spring and everybody was on the dance floor. So naturally, I wanted to get out there and show off my moves. But before my feet even hit the floor, I could feel the Look. I tried to explain how I just had this rhythm in me and that I couldn’t hold it back. The Look intensified. I then tried to convince her that it would be a disservice to the general public to keep these moves to myself. The Look almost bore holes right through me. [*conceding*] At least we got to slow dance.

Reader 2: The Look!

Reader 1: Without a word being spoken,

Reader 2: You know what it means.

Reader 3: In stern silence,

Reader 4: Many lives have been saved.

Reader 1: You know it when you see it.

Reader 2: And you know why it’s coming your way.

Reader 3: There is no escaping.

Reader 4: You can only hope to survive.

All: The Look!

[*Blackout*]

**Optional segue*

Reader 1: Although many would believe otherwise, there is nothing magical or extraordinary about the Look you get from your mother that keeps you in line. It's just an expression of her motherly love and discipline that helps correct you when needed.

Reader 2: Jesus, on the other hand, could command nature itself, not with a look, but with the spoken word. "Peace. Be still." With those words, the storm and waves ceased. Immediately. Now that's real power.

JESUS THE KING:
Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God
Lent Sermon – Week 2
The Power
March 17, 2019

Title: The Power

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

***Jesus the King* (Keller, 2011): Chapter 5**

Where does the bogeyman come from? Seriously? Yes!

With cartoon characters from Disney/Pixar swirling in the heads of most Americans, the bogeyman comes from underneath your bed or lives in your bedroom closet. They only come out at night. Most fortunately, they turn out to be a rather friendly sort of creature, and are helpful in solving kid-sized problems. It seems most people do not take bogeymen too seriously these days.

Travel back in time to the writing of the Bible. For both Old and New Testament Jews, the bogeyman was a very sinister figure. Its presence always spelled disaster for anyone near. For these ancient Jews, what we would call “the bogeyman” had its origins in the sea.

Perhaps the best example is from the prophetic book of Daniel. Chapter 7, verses 1-12 gives some insight into dreams and visions God allowed Daniel to experience of ferocious beasts coming up from the sea. He describes “the four winds of heaven churning up the great sea. ³ Four great beasts, each different from the others, came up out of the sea” (NIV). The most horrific of the beasts, the fourth and last, is described in verse 7:

⁷“After that, in my vision at night I looked, and there before me was a fourth beast—terrifying and frightening and very powerful. It had large iron teeth; it crushed and devoured its victims and trampled underfoot whatever was left. It was different from all the former beasts, and it had ten horns” (NIV).

If I was Daniel, I may have called this last beast *a nightmare!*

The long-held belief of evil monsters coming from the sea severely limited Biblical Jewish people. N. T. Wright (*Mark for Everyone*, 2004, 52) explains that the Jews limited themselves and their activities primarily to the land. Fishing was really the only predominant Jewish trade that relied on the sea. Being a fisherman was thought to be a risky and dangerous occupation. If sea-passage was required for goods or travel, the Jews predominantly looked to their neighbors to the north, the Phoenicians for assistance.

Without this ancient backdrop firmly in your understanding, our Scripture text can seem insignificant to us. So, for a few minutes this morning, take off your 21st century perceptions and beliefs. Try to place yourself in ancient shoes, and experience this familiar story from Mark’s

Gospel in a new way. Listen again to Mark, as he writes the Apostle Peter's recollections of that frightening night:

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" (Mark 4:35-41, NIV)

I. **Historic Context—Understanding the Story with First Century Eyes**

As we "unpack" this passage, it may be helpful to have a bit more historic context regarding a few more elements in the story. First, let's look at **the boat**. We are very fortunate to have an excellent example of a fishing boat from Jesus' time. In 1986, Israel was suffering a great drought, resulting in lakes and marshy areas drying up and shrinking. On the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, some men discovered an ancient fishing boat, buried in mud. Archaeologists carefully extracted and painstakingly preserved what is now called "the Jesus boat." When you visit Israel, you will have the opportunity to see this rare artifact.

[Pictures attached at the conclusion of the manuscript for possible use in a PowerPoint.]

The boat itself is rather small by modern standards. There is only place for four oarsmen and one steersman to navigate the boat. The "Jesus boat" measures 27 feet long, by 7.5 feet wide and is only 4 feet deep. No wonder that the raging storm caused them to think the waves would swamp the boat and they would all drown! This small, low craft was no match for the violence of the storm.

It may also be helpful to understand something about **storms on the Sea of Galilee**. We are so dependent today on our use of weather radar systems that it is rare that we are caught off guard by a storm system approaching. For the most part, storms do not hit us without prior warning and sirens blaring.

The Sea of Galilee is always on the radar for being a location for a "perfect storm" to hit based on the topography of the area. We would call the "Sea" of Galilee a "lake" by our standards. North to south, it is about 13 miles long, and 8 miles wide. The circumference is about 33 miles. The maximum depth is only about 200 feet—which is relatively shallow. Uniquely, the Sea of Galilee is the lowest fresh water lake on Earth, sitting 686 feet below sea level. (It is the second lowest lake in the world, only surpassed by the Dead Sea, which is a salt-water lake.)

The climate around the Sea of Galilee is semi-tropical. Surrounding the Sea of Galilee are many hills. Some reach 2,000 feet high. The air currents there are cool and dry. Because of the height of the hills and the depth of the water's surface, there are huge fluctuations in temperature and air pressure. This causes strong winds to blast on the water, turning a placid lake into a raging storm. This was the situation in Jesus' day, and it is still true today! Storms still come out of nowhere, causing boaters' great panic, and at times, great harm.

An added danger to Mark's account is that the crossing of the Sea of Galilee takes place during the night. From the very beginning of the crossing, the disciples know they are placing their lives in danger. Because Jesus wants to cross to the other side, they are obedient, and take him where He wants to go.

Jesus' words spoken to the furious storm have always held a fascination for me. Can you now see that Jesus is speaking out of the belief of culture? He speaks to the storm in the very same way He spoke to the demon-possessed man in Mark 1:25. Again, the *NIV*'s translation of Jesus' command is too mild, compared with the force of His words in Greek. Jesus said to the demon-possessed man and to the demon of the storm, "Shut up!"

Kent Brower (*Mark: A Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition*, 2012, 140) adds helpful information for our consideration. Jesus' rebuke of the storm is not an appeal directed to God. Jesus did not pray, "Father, please act and make this storm stop." Instead, Jesus uses the power He possesses as a member of the Trinity, and speaks directly to the demon of the sea, commanding, "Shut up!" Jesus is not showing us that He is a human being who believes in God, but that He is a divine being with divine power and authority. Jesus is revealing Himself to the disciples in an astonishing way! Timothy Keller adds, ". . . by his actions here Jesus is demonstrating, 'I am not just someone who *has* power; I am power *itself*. Anyone and anything in the whole universe that has any power has it on loan from me'" (*Jesus the King*, 55).

The reaction of the disciples is marked by two strong words. First, as a reaction to the violence of the storm and the boat filling with water—**fear**. They are panic-stricken. They are sure they will all die. And, they are more than mildly miffed with Jesus that He is peacefully sleeping, seemingly unaware of the danger surrounding them all. This causes them to give voice to their fear. "Teacher, don't you care if we drown" (38)?

When the storm obeys Jesus' command, and the wind immediately stops blowing and the water returns to glass, their second reaction is **terror**. In that instant, a floodlight switches on and off again in their awareness of just who is present with them in the boat! Only God can control the sea. Jesus has just revealed His powerful authority. They have just acted as eyewitnesses of His divine power at work! Can you hear a new tone behind their question to each other? "*Who is this?*" Who are we following?

After the shock wore off, and they were safely ashore, can you imagine the disciples singing loudly around the campfire the words from Psalm 107:23-32 (NIV)?

²⁸"LORD, help!" they cried in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.

- ²⁹ He calmed the storm to a whisper
and stilled the waves.
- ³⁰ What a blessing was that stillness
as he brought them safely into harbor!
- ³¹ Let them praise the LORD for his great love
and for the wonderful things he has done for them.
- ³² Let them exalt him publicly before the congregation
and before the leaders of the nation.

II. Personal Context—Understanding My Story

Out of our better understanding of the text, the next step is to move it from our head (knowledge) to our heart (belief) and finally to our hands (how we actually live our lives). This is no small, easy task. While the story is simple and tidy, our lives are not! In bridging the text to our lives, David Garland suggests the use of three questions (*NIV Application Commentary*, 1996, 196). What does the story reveal about our human predicament? What does the story reveal about Jesus? What solution is presented to meet our human predicament? This morning, we will only begin to answer these questions, as the full answers must be individually sought, experienced and then lived.

What does the story reveal about our human predicament? Before you've taken very many steps as a toddler, you begin to realize that life can be very unpredictable. Intimate and painful knowledge grows as we individually experience life's storms. Bullying. Food insufficiency and hunger. Frightening and debilitating times of serious illness. Family conflict. The list is far from complete, but the overall impression and experience bind us together in our knowledge that unanticipated, unannounced, unwanted challenges may frequently come our way.

A common first reaction when faced with life's unpredictability is fear. In a healthy dose, fear allows us to take appropriate action to whatever is coming against us. Fear can also intensify to the point where we are incapacitated, and take no action toward our own safety or well-being. David Garland encapsulates our human predicament. "We live in a fallen world beset by powers of chaos that are out to destroy us. Our faith is weak, and we do not know in what or in whom we can trust" (*NIV Application Commentary*, 1996, 196).

What does this story reveal about Jesus? We've already begun to answer this question today as we explored the historic context of the passage. In a jarring way, Jesus has revealed to His disciples that He is a member of the Trinity. And, as a part of the Godhead, all power and authority has been given to Him.

Yes, Jesus walked on earth as a man. That's the doctrine of the incarnation, where we try to describe how God became a flesh and blood individual. The mystery is that though Jesus was human, He at the same time was still equally Divine. As Salvationists, we express these truths in our fourth doctrine. "We believe that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man" (*HoD*, 2010).

That's the reason Jesus could speak directly to the storm, and it had to obey Him. That's the reason demons had to obediently surrender to His command. That's why Jesus could touch blind eyes and sight was immediately restored. He is powerful because He is God. Unless we fully grasp and cling to this truth about Jesus, we will find no help in this Biblical account or any other, either. We will be left on our own to navigate the storms that ravage our lives.

Fortunately, there is help and hope in our Biblical text. There is a **solution presented to meet our human predicament**. We have the opportunity to place our faith, our complete trust and reliance on Jesus to carry us through the storm. Kent Brower's caution is appropriate in our consideration of faith in the midst of our storm. He writes,

This story should not be used in a facile fashion that minimizes the very real storms of life that can bring fear to individuals, as if sufficient faith calms every storm. The great distress the disciples experience at the prospect of drowning is the kind Jesus faces in Gethsemane when the cost of obedience to the will of God threatens imminent death on a Roman cross. God's people are not immune to fears that threaten to overwhelm them. But in the face of catastrophe, this story reminds us that the good purposes of God will ultimately triumph. Sometimes it is through the immediate calming of the storm, as happens here. At other times God gives the courage and hope to face the storm, as with Jesus in Gethsemane (*Mark: A Commentary in the Wesleyan Tradition*, 2012, 141).

The spiritual muscle of faith grows stronger the same way any physical muscle strengthens—through constant, repeated action. The kind of faith necessary to face the disciple's storm or a personal Gethsemane is not born in the moment of crisis. We incrementally build the strength of faith necessary to navigate life's storms one experience at a time. We exercise our faith in Christ at first for simple things, which leads to growth and strength. Iron fisted faith comes through constant application of our belief in the power of Christ to hold us and to help us.

Conclusion

The song sung by Scott Krippayne, "Sometimes He Calms the Storm" has captured what I'm trying to say,

All who sail the sea of faith
Find out before too long
How quickly blue skies can grow dark
And gentle winds grow strong

Suddenly fear is like white water
Pounding on the soul
Still we sail on knowing
That our Lord is in control

Sometimes He calms the storm
With a whispered peace be still
He can settle any sea
But it doesn't mean He will

Sometimes He holds us close
And lets the wind and waves go wild
Sometimes He calms the storm
And other times He calms His child

He has a reason for each trial
That we pass through in life
And though we're shaken
We cannot be pulled apart from Christ

No matter how the driving rain beats down
On those who hold to faith
A heart of trust will always
Be a quiet peaceful place

(Songwriters: Benton Kevin Stokes / Tony W. Wood. *Sometimes He Calms the Storm* lyrics
© Universal Music Publishing Group, Capitol Christian Music Group.)

Only you and the Lord know the full force of the storm that threatens in this moment. Only the Lord knows the storm that will eventually approach to try your faith. In this moment, will you place your full confidence and trust in Christ? That's the only way He can hold and help you through the storm. The place of prayer is here and available for your use if it will help you draw closer to God in this moment. As you come to pray, there are many here who would cherish the opportunity to help you through your storm by offering their sincere prayers of support.



Jesus the King: Understanding the Life and Death of the Son of God by Timothy Keller, 2013; previously published as *King's Cross: The Story of the World in the Life of Jesus*, 2011 (Penguin Books).