



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

18 – The Sleeping Savior

Announcements:

~~2/21 @6:30~~

~~Men's Group~~

CANCELED

2/23 @7:00 -

Corporate

Prayer

2/24 @6:30 -

Grace Group

2/27 @7:00 -

Sunday School

ICE BREAKER: Do you like to take naps?

READ: Matthew 8:23-27

As we noted on Sunday, the purpose of this passage is not necessarily about us as Jesus' disciples, our growth and sanctification, (but there are thoughts for that) but the purpose of this passage is Christological. This is ultimately a passage about our Lord and savior. What Matthew wants us to see and ponder is the same thing the disciples are left pondering, "What sort of man is this?" But there is *another* portion of this verse that might make us wonder about Jesus. While the disciples are heard asking: what sort of man is this, that even the winds and sea obey him?" We might ask instead, looking at verse 24: "What sort of man is this, sleeping through a world shaking life altering storm?" Today I would like to look at the sleeping savior, because even this tells us much about Jesus and his calling and work here on earth.

One of the most important doctrines that we hold as Christians is that Jesus was fully God and fully man (for nerds like myself, the Hypostatic Union). In this story, and specifically in the two questions we asked above, we see the perfect juxtaposition of these two natures of Christ. What sort of man does the wind and sea obey? Only God! What sort of man gets tired from time to time and needs rest? Every sort! Though Jesus was fully God and therefore had the authority, power and ability to calm the storm, he was also fully man and got tired and needed rest. This uniquely places Jesus in a position to be our savior. He was God so he could save us; and he is man so he can take our place. Like the writer of Hebrews points out, because he is a man he can die for men and save men (see Hebrews 1). The sleeping savior, in just showing us the dual nature of Christ is critical for us and our salvation!

DISCUSS: Is there comfort in Jesus getting tired? What sort?

However there is something else that we might wonder when we think about what sort of man would sleep through this storm. By way of example: If anyone is walking up in the middle of the night because of some sound or crying child in our house, it is 100% Desiree. This has only been magnified in the last year since I got a CPAP. Simply put, when I am asleep I am completely dead to the world and it takes ALOT to wake me up. So one answer to the question of what sort of man would sleep through a storm would be a person like me: clueless. But is that what is going on with Jesus? Is he asleep because he has no idea and is unaware of the cares, fears, and trouble of his disciples? Most assuredly the answer is no! So why is the savior sleeping? There are two thoughts here. One we looked at above, it is not that he is clueless, but he is so tired that he just can't stay up. This however misses the point. Let's look at another similar passage.

READ: Psalm 44:23

In this Psalm it seems as if the people are accusing God himself of sleeping. But this is obviously not the case (for God "neither slumbers nor sleeps" Psalm 121:4). So the real issue is that the people *feel* like God is unaware and far away (or sleeping) when in reality he is working, moving and saving. Jesus is resting because he is tired, but also, as David Turner points out: has implications on Jesus' trust in God's protection. He is modeling for his disciples what true faith looks like. He has shown them faith; this is why he can rebuke them. So finally, what do we learn of our savior: what sort of man can sleep through a storm like this? One that trusts wholly and completely in God!

DISCUSS: Why does this sort of trust often elude us? How can we foster such complete trust in God in ourselves?