

Jesus is Really Scary

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Scripture

As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!" -- Mark 4:35-41 (NLT)

Message Takeaways

- Fear is a sign that you are getting close to something important.
- If Jesus does not scare you then you probably haven't met him.
- If I only spend time with people like me, then God will never be any bigger than me.
- One of the biggest barriers we face at our address is our lack of racial diversity.
- There is almost no such thing as ready. Ready doesn't even really exist. There is only now.

"It is my belief, that we should not be too sure of having found Christ in ourselves until we have found him also in that part of humanity that is most remote from our own."
-- Thomas Merton

Discussion Questions

1. Why were the disciples afraid of Jesus? What about Jesus scares you?
2. What did the Disciples learn about Jesus on the other side of the lake?
3. How does a lack of racial diversity limit our understanding of God?
4. Where is the other side of the lake for you? What boundaries can you cross?

The Other Lunch Challenge

Take someone to lunch who has a different view of religion, politics, sports, sexual orientation, race, abortion, climate change, immigration, gun control, the death penalty. Invite an evangelical Christian, liberal Christian, atheist ... anyone who is on the other side from you. It could be someone of a different race or religion too.

The purpose is not to convince them of anything or to defend anything you believe, but to get to know them, and why they believe as they do. Share personal life experiences, and talk about your families, and seek to know who they are behind the issues. The purpose is making a connection.

And don't forget to buy their lunch.

Then share your story with us at MiddletownChristian.org/hearmystory or on social media with the hashtag #mcchearmystory.

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Group Life @ Middletown

If you are interested in taking part in a sermon-based discussion group or other small group, visit middletownchristian.org or contact Tracey Spann, tspann@middletownchristian.org to learn more.

Middletown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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