

Mark 4:35-41

June 28, 2015

“The One Who Was Asleep –  
Put The Storm To Sleep”

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Rev. Brent Hartwig

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday af. Pentecost

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God, our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

**[Introduction]** It was in the wee small hours of the morning  
—as Boston was preoccupied with Saint Patrick's Day celebrations—  
a pair of thieves stole thirteen works of art.

At 1:24 a.m. on March 18, 1990, two men who were dressed as policemen walked up to a side entrance of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. One of the men pressed the buzzer near the door and declared, “Police! Let us in. We heard about a disturbance in the courtyard.”

During the robbery, there were two security guards working inside of the 4-story building that night; one was sitting behind the main security desk, the other guard was elsewhere. But it wasn't long and the security guards were not guarding anything but the pipes in the basement.

Thirteen works of art were stolen, and this is considered the biggest art theft in US history and it remains unsolved – a mystery.

Even today, the museum displays the paintings' empty frames in their original locations.

The thieves then went to the Dutch Room.

As one of them approached a Rembrandt painting, an alarm sounded, which they immediately smashed.



They pulled Rembrandt's Self-Portrait (1629) off the wall and tried to take the wooden panel out of the heavy frame. Unsuccessful at that attempt, they left it on the floor.

Next they cut Rembrandt's *The Storm on the Sea of Galilee* (1633) out of the frame.

*The Storm on the Sea of Galilee* is One of Rembrandt's famous paintings.

It is the only one of a seascape.

And in this painting Rembrandt paints a picture.

With dark hues he paints a picture –

With waves cresting high he paints a picture –

With a violent storm he paints a picture – a picture of Mark chapter 4.

[*Textual Account*] It was after evening had fallen

—as the city was preoccupied with the teachings of Jesus—

a boat was waiting at the shore.

Jesus declared, “Let us go across to the other side.”

Leaving the crowd behind, the disciples and Jesus go to the boat

– the boat that was surrounded by other boats.

While they were sailing ... λαίλαψ. Typhoon! Hurricane! Squall! Cyclone!

The boat was sinking in a violent storm with great wind activity.

The waves were breaking into the boat, and the boat began to fill.

Jesus was in the stern asleep on the cushion.

Jesus was awoken.

Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!”

With the precision of an eyewitness report, Mark tells us:

— the precise time – when evening had come

— the unnecessary reference to the other boats that were around

— the vivid detail that “the boat was already filling”

— the precise location of Jesus’ position – in the stern, asleep on the cushion

— the harshness of the rebuke – of the storm and of the disciples.

[*Doubt*] He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”

Jesus says the same to you! “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”

Mom reads you a story. You have said your evening prayers.

The lights go out and you are in a dark room all by yourself.

Fear overcomes you, and you are afraid.

“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”

OR You are wearing the patient gown with your backside open.

The table is cold and the paper crinkles with every move.

There is a knock and the doctor walks in.

And in the next moment everything changes.

You hear what you never wanted to hear. “You have cancer.”

Fear overcomes you, and you are afraid.

“Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”

When your divorce is done...  
When your job has been jettisoned...  
When your Dad has died... “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?”

[*Natures*] Don't you know? The one who was asleep – put the storm to sleep.  
Here we see the two natures of Christ.

Born of a woman (Galatians 4:4),  
sent in the likeness of sinful man (Romans 8:3),  
found in appearance as a man (Philippians 2:8),  
He called Himself “the Son of Man.”

He is flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone.  
He had our wants and desires, our hunger and thirst,  
our sense of pleasure and pain, all without sinning.

He grew in stature and wisdom,  
hungered and ate,  
thirsted and drank,  
worked and wearied,  
rejoiced and wept,  
walked and slept.

He slept in the stern on a cushion. And He suffered and died.

But more than that – He rose!

He is the Son of God, and God the Son.

St. John writes, “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known” (1:18).

Only God has divine names. If Christ has divine names, then He is true God.  
Only God has divine attributes. If Christ has divine attributes, then He is true God.  
Only God can do divine works. If Christ does divine works, then He is true God.

Psalms talks about the works of God.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 65:7** who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves,  
the tumult of the peoples,

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 89:9** You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still  
them.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 107:28** Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he  
delivered them from their distress. <sup>29</sup> He made the storm be still, and the  
waves of the sea were hushed.

“Quiet! Be still!” Jesus said. And the storm quieted. And the waters stilled.  
The disciples know that humans cannot control the waves of the sea,  
but they see Jesus can.

True God and true man!

He had to be true man.

He had to be true man to be under the law and fulfill it for us.

That is active obedience.

He had to be true man to be able to suffer and die in our place, as our substitute.

That is passive obedience.

And He had to be true God to overcome sin, death, and the devil for us.

***“[I believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God...”***

The one who was asleep – put the storm to sleep.

The one who was asleep on Good Friday – put death to sleep forever.

The one who was asleep rose on Easter.

And to many in this world – even us, who like the disciples, sometimes doubt  
– this is a mystery.

[***Conclusion***] Back at the museum...

The thieves had to make two trips to their car with the artwork.

The theft lasted 81 minutes.

The guards remained tied and handcuffed

until the ***REAL*** police arrived at 8:15 a.m. later that morning.

Unlike the thieves who pretended to be police, Jesus isn't pretending to be God.  
He is God. Don't you know? The one who was asleep – put the storm to sleep.

Now for the rest of the story – thank you Paul Harvey!

On March 18, 2013, twenty-three years later, the FBI announced they knew  
who was responsible for the crime. Criminal analysis has suggested that the  
heist was committed by an organized crime group.

Just this spring the names of the criminals were announced, but we still  
don't know the motive.

One day the fuller story will be known by all.

Likewise, the fuller story of Jesus will be known by all.

When Christ returns, at the second advent of Jesus,  
every knee will bow, for Jesus is our God. Amen!