

THE HOLINESS OF CHRIST  
(Mark 4:35ff; Luke 5:1-11)

- I. There Is Often a Sense of Anguish and Hostility Directed Against Christians
  - A. It is rare, however, for someone to publicly criticize the integrity of Jesus
  - B. If Jesus was so wonderful, why was He killed?
- II. Throughout History, Man Has Always Been *Homo Religiosus*, Devoting Himself to the Pursuit of Religion
  - A. Madalyn Murray O’Hair argued that those people were superstitious and were uneducated
  - B. Freud said that religion emerges historically out of the psychological needs of people
    - 1. Every human being has a built-in fear of natural forces that threaten their very lives
    - 2. First, we personalize nature; then, out of our fear of nature, we invent God
- III. How Did the Disciples Respond to Jesus?
  - A. They were uncomfortable when they saw His holiness (Mark 4:35ff)
    - 1. When they encountered the storm they became afraid
    - 2. After Jesus calmed the storm they became very much afraid
      - a. Rather than having their fears assuaged, their fears became intensified
      - b. What humans fear most is an encounter with a holy God
    - 3. Jesus did not fit into any category of man that they knew
  - B. Peter had a similar experience in Luke 5:1-11
    - 1. He had fished all night without results
    - 2. Jesus directed him to a large catch of fish
    - 3. Peter was confronted with his own sinfulness in the light of Jesus’ presence
  - C. People are threatened by *supercompetency*
    - 1. People are uncomfortable in our presence, not because we are holy, but because we represent the One who is
    - 2. The Pharisees, who tried to be self-righteous, were the most vehemently opposed to Jesus and His true righteousness
    - 3. Those most comfortable with Jesus were the outcast sinners who had no illusions about their own righteousness
- IV. We Are Invited to Come into the Presence of a Holy God
  - A. The one place where we can be truly comfortable is in the presence of Christ
  - B. Even though we fear the Holy One, and even though we are not holy, in Christ we are welcome
  - C. There is no escape from the holiness of God
  - D. The essence of the Christian faith is grace, and the essence of the Christian ethic is gratitude