



## Power Over – Creation

### Sermon Discussion Questions – April 3, 2022

#### **Scripture Passages:**

**Matthew 14:22-32** <sup>22</sup> Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup> After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup> and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup> Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup> When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup> But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

<sup>28</sup> “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

<sup>29</sup> “Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

<sup>31</sup> Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

<sup>32</sup> And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup> Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

#### **Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: [a] The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### **Warm Up**

**This week we kicked off our Easter series, Power Over. Just for fun what are some powers that you wish you had? What would you like to have power over?**

### **Discussion**

- 1) Toward the beginning of his message, Pastor Matt talked about some examples of God having power over creation.  
What might it look like for someone to have power over creation? What are some stories or examples that you can think of that show God has power over creation? (Hint think about stories from the Old Testament and New Testament.)
- 2) Pastor Matt made the point that God demonstrates power over creation all throughout scripture, and he focused in on how Jesus has power over creation.  
Take a few minutes to talk about Jesus' life. What are some ways that Jesus demonstrates power over creation? How might knowing God has power over creation impact our view of God and our view of our circumstances?
- 3) Read Matthew 14:22-32.  
How is Jesus' power demonstrated in this passage? What types of things does Jesus have power over? How does Jesus' use of power impact the people around him?
- 4) Still looking at Matthew 14:22-32.  
Who do you identify with most in this passage and why? What would it have been like to be one of the disciples witnessing this moment? How might having this experience have impacted the way the disciples viewed the world around them?
- 5) Excerpt from Pastor Matt's Message:  
*And at one moment, He stepped into our reality, through a tear in the fabric of our understanding, to enter our normal, and point to a greater, truer normal, that He is trying to bring about.*  
  
*And, He's still doing it today! Every time you see something that takes your breath away - from a sunset to a cool stream, an ocean to a small child playing...it points to something bigger, grander, better, than what we can bring about on our own.*

What are some of your reactions to this quote? What are some experiences you have had where beauty in creation reminded you of a reality bigger than what we can bring about ourselves?

6) Read Colossians 1:15-20.

What can we learn about Jesus from these verses? What do these verses teach us about Jesus' relationship with creation?

7) What other insights or points from Pastor Matt's message challenged you and why? Were there any topics or questions from Sunday morning that you had hoped we would talk about as a group?

8) Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

What can we learn about our role in the restoration process from these verses? How does this connect to the theme of God's power over creation?

### ***Next Steps:***

Take a few minutes to reflect on ways God has brought order to chaos in your own life. What are some ways that you have seen God demonstrate power over creation and over areas in your life? Or what are areas where you are hoping to see his power?

Which situations, places, or people is God calling you to be a part of his process of making things new for and with others?