

“The Pattern Son (*What Manner of Man is this? Series Part 2*)”

Summary

This powerful message invites us to rediscover the awe-inspiring nature of Jesus Christ through the question His disciples asked: 'What manner of man is this?' Drawing from Matthew 8 where Jesus calms the storm, we're challenged to see that our storms and adversities aren't random chaos—they're divine opportunities to witness Jesus in action. The disciples were experienced fishermen, yet they panicked. Jesus slept peacefully, then stood and commanded the elements to obey Him. This reveals something profound: storms exist not to destroy us, but to reveal who Jesus truly is and, in turn, who we are meant to be. When we grasp that all things work together for good—not just for comfort, but to conform us to Christ's image—we begin to approach life differently. Our difficulties become platforms for divine manifestation. The message weaves through Ruth's transformation, Peter walking on water, and the wedding at Cana, showing us that in every crisis, Jesus is positioning Himself to be seen. The question 'What manner of man is this?' isn't just about intellectual curiosity—it's about falling in love again with a Savior whose glory transforms everyone who truly sees Him. We're being prepared as His bride, spotless and without blemish, not through our own efforts but through beholding Him in the midst of our chaos.

Main Points – The Pattern Son (*What Manner of Man is this? Series Part 2*)

Sermon Summary:

This sermon explores the disciples' profound question "What manner of man is this?" after Jesus calmed the storm. Pastor Rob emphasizes that understanding who Jesus is directly shapes our understanding of who we are as believers. Through storms, adversities, and challenging circumstances, God reveals the person of Jesus Christ and conforms us to His image. The message challenges believers to move beyond mediocre Christianity and rediscover awe and wonder at Jesus, recognizing that we are being transformed into His likeness. The sermon connects the account of Ruth with the believer's journey, showing how encounters with Jesus at His feet bring transformation. Ultimately, God is preparing a bride without spot or wrinkle, and both Jesus sanctifies us and we participate by making ourselves ready.

Key Points:

- Storms and adversities are God's tools for unveiling the person of Jesus Christ

- When we see Jesus as He is, we become like Him through transformation
- All things work together for good means being conformed to the image of Christ, not just receiving material blessings
- Jesus must be the firstborn—first in importance, order, and priority in our lives
- Our potential is on display in the person of Jesus Christ
- The world doesn't know us because it didn't know Him—our identity is wrapped up in His identity
- Tribulation works patience, patience works experience, experience works hope
- Jesus is preparing us as His bride, cleansing us with the washing of water by the Word
- We have a dual responsibility: Jesus sanctifies us AND the bride makes herself ready
- The five-fold ministry exists to bring us to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Scripture Reference:

- Matthew 8:26-27 (Jesus calming the storm)
- Matthew 14:22-33 (Peter walking on water)
- John 2:1-11 (Wedding at Cana)
- Romans 5:3-5 (Tribulation works patience)
- Romans 8:28-29 (All things work together for good, conforming to Christ's image)
- 1 John 3:1-3 (When He appears, we shall be like Him)
- Ephesians 5:25-27 (Christ presenting the church without spot or wrinkle)
- Ephesians 4:11-13 (Five-fold ministry gifts)
- Revelation 19:7 (The bride has made herself ready)

Small Group Study Guide – The Pattern Son (*What Manner of Man is this? Series Part 2*)

"What Manner of Man Is This?" - Week 2

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to reveal Jesus in fresh ways during your time together and to help each person see themselves as God sees them.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Question: Share about a time when you experienced God's peace or provision in the middle of a difficult situation. How did that experience change your perspective?

Key Themes from the Sermon

1. Storms Reveal Jesus

The sermon emphasized that storms and adversity are often God's tools for unveiling the person of Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

- What storms or challenges are you currently facing? How might God be using these to reveal Jesus to you?
- Pastor Rob said, "If you know I love you, why are you afraid of anything?" What areas of your life still harbor fear, and what might that reveal about your understanding of God's love?
- Read Matthew 8:26-27. Why do you think the disciples were amazed after Jesus calmed the storm? What does their response teach us?

2. Conforming to Christ's Image

Romans 8:28-29 teaches that all things work together for good—specifically, to conform us to the image of Christ.

Discussion Questions:

- How does understanding that "good" means being conformed to Christ's image change your perspective on current difficulties?
- Pastor Rob said, "Your potential is on display in the person of Jesus Christ." What does this mean to you personally?
- Read 1 John 3:2-3. What does it mean that "when we see Him, we shall be like Him"? How do we "see" Jesus in our daily lives?

3. The Question: "Who Are You?"

Like Ruth being asked "Who are you?" after her encounter with Boaz, we are changed by our encounters with Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

- Ruth's response was to tell "all that the man had done to her." When was the last time you shared your testimony of what Jesus has done for you?
- Have people noticed changes in you since you began following Jesus? What changes have been most significant?
- Are there areas where you've settled into "mediocre Christianity" rather than expecting ongoing transformation?

4. Making Ourselves Ready

While Jesus cleanses us, Revelation 19:7 says "the bride has made herself ready."

Discussion Questions:

- What's the difference between Jesus sanctifying us (Ephesians 5:26-27) and us making ourselves ready (Revelation 19:7)?
- Pastor Rob compared this to someone lovingly telling you your zipper is down. How do you respond when the Holy Spirit points out areas that need change?
- What practical steps can you take this week to "purify yourself" (1 John 3:3) in response to seeing Jesus more clearly?

Key Takeaways

1. Storms are platforms for Jesus to be revealed - They're not just obstacles to overcome but opportunities to see Jesus in new ways.
2. All things work together to conform us to Christ's image - The goal isn't just comfort or success, but transformation into Christ's likeness.
3. When we see Him, we become like Him - Beholding Jesus is the key to transformation, not self-effort alone.
4. Jesus must remain first - He is the "firstborn among many brethren"—first in importance, time, and priority.
5. We have a high calling - We're being prepared as the bride of Christ, not just surviving until heaven.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge: Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Storm Perspective Shift

- Identify one current challenge in your life
- Journal daily about how you might see Jesus in this situation
- Look for ways God might be using it to conform you to Christ's image

Option 2: Testimony Sharing

- Like Ruth, prepare to share "all that the man (Jesus) has done for you"
- Share your testimony with at least one person this week
- Focus on transformation, not just salvation

Option 3: Worship in Adversity

- When facing stress or fear this week, immediately stop and worship
- Ask God, "Where are You in this? What are You showing me about Yourself?"
- Keep a record of what you discover

Option 4: Identity Check

- Spend 15 minutes each day this week reading scriptures about your identity in Christ
- Write down any "spots, wrinkles, or blemishes" the Holy Spirit reveals
- Thank Him for His gentle correction and ask for help to change

Scripture Memory

1 John 3:2-3

"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

Prayer Focus:

- Thank God for using storms to reveal Jesus
- Ask for fresh awe and wonder at who Jesus is
- Pray for transformation into Christ's image
- Commit to making yourselves ready as His bride

Group Prayer:

Go around and have each person pray this simple prayer (or their own version):

"Jesus, I want to see You clearly. Use everything in my life to conform me to Your image. Help me to respond to Your love by making myself ready. Amen."

Before Next Week

- Listen to the sermon again if you missed any parts
- Share one insight from this discussion with someone outside your group
- Come prepared to share how you practiced this week's challenge

Leader Tips:

- Don't feel pressured to cover every question—focus on where the Spirit leads
- Allow silence after questions; transformation happens in reflection
- Be vulnerable about your own storms and struggles
- Celebrate testimonies of how group members have seen Jesus in their circumstances

Discussion Questions – The Pattern Son (*What Manner of Man is this? Series Part 2*)

How have storms and adversities in your own life served as tools for revealing the person of Jesus Christ to you in ways you wouldn't have otherwise experienced?

When Jesus asked His disciples 'Why are you fearful?' in the midst of the storm, what does this reveal about how differently He views our circumstances compared to how we typically perceive them?

The sermon suggests that our potential is on display in the person of Jesus Christ. How does looking at Jesus help you understand who you were created to be?

What does it mean practically for Jesus to be 'the firstborn among many brethren,' and how should this shape our understanding of our own identity and calling?

How can we shift from trying to avoid all problems in life to instead looking for Jesus to be revealed in the midst of those very problems?

Pastor Rob mentions that God said to him, 'If you know I love you, why are you afraid of anything?' What areas of fear or anxiety in your life might indicate you haven't fully grasped God's love for you?

Ruth's transformation led Naomi to ask 'Who are you?' after she encountered Boaz. What changes in your life would cause others to notice you've been in the presence of Jesus?

How does understanding that 'all things work together for good' means being conformed to Christ's image rather than just receiving material blessings change your perspective on current difficulties?

The sermon emphasizes that when we see Jesus as He is, we become like Him. What spiritual disciplines or practices help you behold Jesus more clearly?

In what ways might the church today need disciples who already believe in Jesus to believe on Him in a deeper, more transformative way?

Scriptures – The Pattern Son (*What Manner of Man is this? Series Part 2*)

Explicitly Cited References:

1. Matthew 8:26 - "Why are you fearful? O you of little faith"
2. Matthew 14:22-33 - Jesus walking on water; Peter's attempt to walk on water
3. John 2:1-11 - Wedding at Cana (first miracle); specifically verses 10-11 quoted
4. Romans 8:28 - "All things work together for good"
5. Romans 8:29 - "Predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son"
6. Romans 5:3-5 - Tribulation works patience, patience experience, experience hope
7. 1 John 3:1-3 - "When he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is"
8. Ephesians 5:25-27 - Christ sanctifying and cleansing the church to present her without spot or wrinkle
9. Revelation 19:7 - "The marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready"
10. Ephesians 4:11-13 - Five-fold ministry gifts given "to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"
11. Ruth 3:16 - "Who are you, my daughter?" and Ruth's response about what the man had done
12. Psalm 16:11 - "In your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (alluded to)

Additional References Alluded To:

13. John 16:33 - "In the world you will have tribulation"
14. 1 Corinthians 9:27 - Paul keeping himself under discipline (paraphrased)
15. John 14:9 - "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father"
16. Matthew 10:39 - "He that finds his life will lose it; he that loses his life will find it"
17. 1 John 4:18 - "Perfect love casts out all fear"
18. Genesis 1:26-27 - Created in God's image and likeness with dominion (alluded to)
19. 1 Corinthians 15:52 - Changed "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye"
20. Numbers 6:24-26 - Aaronic blessing (used at the end of sermon)

Devotional – The Pattern Son (*What Manner of Man is this? Series Part 2*)

5-Day Devotional: What Manner of Man Is This? – Part 2

Day 1: Seeing Jesus in the Storm

Reading: Matthew 8:23-27

Devotional: When the disciples faced the violent storm, their terror revealed how little they truly understood about who was sleeping in their boat. Jesus' question—"Why are you fearful?"—wasn't a rebuke but an invitation to see Him differently. The storms in our lives aren't random chaos; they're divine opportunities to witness Jesus' authority and power. When circumstances overwhelm you, remember that Jesus isn't wringing His hands in worry. He's present, peaceful, and powerful. Your crisis is His stage. The question isn't whether you'll face storms, but whether you'll use them to discover more of who Jesus is. What storm in your life right now could become a platform for seeing Jesus more clearly?

Day 2: Walking on Water—The Call to the Impossible

Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Devotional: Peter's water-walking moment teaches us that Jesus invites us into environments that terrify us. Notice Jesus didn't wait for calm seas before saying "Come." He called Peter out onto the very thing that threatened him. When Peter focused on Jesus, the impossible became possible. When he focused on the wind, he sank. Your faith isn't measured by the absence of fear but by what captures your attention in the midst of it. Jesus immediately reached out when Peter began to sink—He's always closer than your fear suggests. Today, ask yourself: What "impossible" invitation is Jesus extending to you? What would change if you fixed your eyes on Him rather than your circumstances?

Day 3: Transformed by His Presence

Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

Devotional: "When we see Him, we shall be like Him"—this promise contains the secret of transformation. We don't change by trying harder; we change by beholding Jesus more clearly. Every encounter with His glory reshapes us into His image. The Father's love isn't just affection; it's transformative power that makes us His children in nature, not just name. The world doesn't recognize us because it didn't recognize Him—our identity is hidden in His. This hope isn't passive wishful thinking; it's active purification. When you grasp who you're becoming, you naturally cooperate with the process. Spend time today simply gazing at Jesus through worship, Scripture, or prayer. Let beholding Him do what striving never could.

Day 4: The Purpose Behind All Things

Reading: Romans 8:28-29

Devotional: "All things work together for good"—but good isn't defined by comfort or convenience. God's good is conformity to Christ's image. Your leaking roof, broken relationship, or financial pressure aren't obstacles to God's plan; they're instruments of it. The pressure you're experiencing is God's tool for pressing Christ's character into you. This reframes everything. Tribulation works patience, patience produces experience, experience births hope—and hope anchored in God's love never disappoints. The devil wants circumstances to separate you from God's love; God uses those same circumstances to conform you to His Son. Today, identify one difficult situation and ask: "How might God be using this to make me more like Jesus?" Your answer changes everything.

Day 5: Making Yourself Ready

Reading: Revelation 19:6-9; Ephesians 5:25-27

Devotional: Jesus is preparing a bride without spot, wrinkle, or blemish—and remarkably, the bride makes herself ready. This isn't contradiction; it's cooperation. Jesus washes us with His Word, but we respond by purifying ourselves when we see what He's calling us to become. You're not just a forgiven sinner; you're a bride being prepared for eternal partnership with the King. When someone who loves you points out dirt on your face, gratitude is the right response. Jesus isn't highlighting your flaws to shame you but to ready you for glory. The high calling on your life demands participation, not perfection. What area is the Holy Spirit gently highlighting today? Respond with gratitude, not guilt. Let His love for you motivate your cooperation with His transforming work.

As you conclude this devotional journey, remember: every storm, every challenge, every moment of transformation is drawing you deeper into the question, "What manner of man is this?" May you never lose your awe of Jesus, and may that wonder continually reshape who you are becoming.