

+WEEKLY SERMON

communicate@blackburn.anglican.org



Who is this?

Exhilarating, amazing, bewildering, exasperating, puzzling, glorious, or inspiring!

All the above could have been words that were used by those who followed the earthly Jesus. It's hard for those of us who weren't there to exactly grasp what it must have been like to walk with the one who was both man and God through his ministry on earth.

Of course, those who chose to follow him would have found him primarily an inspiration. Nevertheless, even they would have sometimes just been left wondering what on earth the next step would be.

Today, we see this Jesus contravening the normal laws of nature and bringing order to chaos. For those of us with hindsight, it is quite clear why he was able to do this. He is the Word made Flesh; Messiah; the Second Person of the Trinity; Alpha and Omega. Yet at the time what people saw was the ordinary rules not applying.

In the end the question at the beginning of this passage is the only one that really matters. 'This' is Jesus the Redeemer and once we've acknowledged that we must ask what His primary call on our lives is.

For any who choose to disregard him that comes with consequences, but the consequences also exist for those of us who choose to follow him. For having recognised him for who he is then we must take up our cross and follow him, with all the implications that that might have. By definition we cannot fully know what this will mean as we step day-by-day.

Today, we are given the opportunity once again as we ponder 'who is this' to recognise Him, adore Him, and recommit ourselves to walk with Him. In doing so, we recognise that this is not a lone walk but a walk accompanied not just by the Prince of Peace but the attendant grace of God that will strengthen and sustain us for the journey ahead wherever that may lead.

Archdeacon David Picken, Archdeacon of Lancaster