

More That Amazing Lincoln Brewster

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You're the One who walked on water and You calmed the raging seas.
You command the highest mountains to fall upon their knees.
You're the one who welcomed sinners and You open blinded eyes.
You restored the broken hearted and You brought the dead to life.

Refrain:

Forgetting all our sins, You remember all Your promises.
You are amazing, more than amazing.
Forever our God, You're more than enough. You are amazing

With authority You've spoken. You've set the captive free.
You're the King who came to serve and the God who washed our feet.
You're the one who took our burdens and You bled upon the cross.
In Your kindness and Your mercy, You became the way for us.

Refrain:

Oh how marvelous, oh how wonderful, oh how glorious You are. You are amazing.
Oh how marvelous, oh how wonderful, oh how glorious You are.

You're the One who walked on water and You calmed the raging seas.
You command the highest mountains to fall upon their knees.

Mark 6:45-51 "As soon as the meal was finished, Jesus insisted that the disciples get in a boat and go on ahead to Bethsaida while He dismissed the congregation. After sending them off, He climbed a mountain to pray. Late at night the boat was far out to sea; Jesus was still by himself on land. He could see His men struggling against with the oars, the wind having come up against them. At about 4 o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the sea. He intended to go right by them. But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and screamed, scared to death. Jesus was quick to comfort them: 'Courage! It's me. Don't be afraid.' As soon as He climbed into the boat, the wind died down. They were stunned, shaking their heads, wondering what was going on." The Message¹

In this passage from Mark, there is an example of Jesus' power that is often overlooked. Bethsaida is believed to have been on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, which is approximately 13 miles long and 5 miles wide. Even if the disciples were rowing across the narrower width, Jesus was quite far from them. And while we are not specifically told that there was a storm, if the wind and waves were that strong, there's a good

chance it was stormy. Can you see clearly that far in a storm? Jesus did. And when He saw His friends struggling, He didn't leave them to struggle alone, He went to them. Do you consider that amazing? Why do you feel that way? Has Jesus come to you during a time of struggle? How did that feel? If you answered no, why do you feel that Jesus hasn't come to you?

You're the one who welcomed sinners and You open blinded eyes.
You restored the broken hearted and You brought the dead to life.

Luke 5:31:32 *"Jesus answered them, 'It is the sick who need a doctor, not those in good health. My purpose is to invite sinners to turn from their sins not spend time with those who think themselves good enough already.'"* The Living Bible²

Mark 5:36-42 *"Jesus overheard what they were talking about and said to the leader, 'Don't listen to them; just trust me.' He permitted no one to go in with him except Peter, James, and John. They entered the leader's house and pushed their way through the gossips looking for a story and neighbors bringing in casseroles. Jesus was abrupt: 'Why all this busybody grief and gossip? This child isn't dead; she's sleeping. 'Provoked to sarcasm, they told him he didn't know what he was talking about. But when he had sent them all out, he took the child's father and mother, along with his companions, and entered the child's room. He clasped the girl's hand and said, 'Talitha koum,' which means, 'Little girl, get up.' At that, she was up and walking around! This girl was twelve years of age. They, of course, were all beside themselves with joy."* The Message¹

How does Jesus' invitation in Luke make you feel? What does Jesus' statement "those who think themselves good enough already" mean to you? Why do you think it's worded that way?

In Mark, Jesus gets upset with the "gossips looking for a story and neighbors bringing casseroles"? Why do you think He behaved this way? Does that take away from what He then did? Do you think it takes away from your good deeds if you lose your temper? Why? If it didn't make a difference in Jesus' situation, why does it make a difference in yours?

With authority You've spoken. You've set the captive free.
You're the King who came to serve and the God who washed our feet.

John 13: 1-7, 12-17 “Jesus knew on the evening of Passover Day that it would be his last night on earth before returning to his Father. During supper the devil had already suggested to Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, that this was the night to carry out his plan to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had given him everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. And how he loved his disciples! So he got up from the supper table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his loins, poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel he had around him. When he came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, ‘Master, you shouldn’t be washing our feet like this!’ Jesus replied, ‘You don’t understand now why I am doing it; some day you will.’

After washing their feet he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, ‘Do you understand what I was doing? You call me ‘Master’ and ‘Lord,’ and you do well to say it, for it is true. And since I, the Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow: do as I have done to you. How true it is that a servant is not greater than his master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends him. You know these things—now do them! That is the path of blessing.’” The Living Bible²

1 Timothy 2:4-6 “He wants not only us but everyone saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we’ve learned: that there’s one God and only one, and one Priest-Mediator between God and us – Jesus, who offered Himself in exchange for everyone held captive by sin, to set them all free.” The Message¹

What would you ask Jesus to set you free from? Would it be easy for you to ask? Why do you feel that way?

In John, after kneeling before the disciples to wash their feet, Jesus spoke with authority and taught His disciples. What lesson do you take from this reading? Is it an easy lesson? Do you think the things Jesus said were easy for the disciples to hear? Why?

You’re the one who took our burdens and You bled upon the cross.

In Your kindness and Your mercy, You became the way for us.

John 11:47-52 “The high priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Jewish ruling body. ‘What do we do now?’ they asked. ‘This man keeps on doing things, creating God-signs. If we let him go on, pretty soon everyone will be believing in him and the Romans will come and remove what little power and privilege we still have.’ Then one of them—it was Caiaphas, the designated Chief Priest that year—spoke up, ‘Don’t you know anything? Can’t you see that it’s to our advantage that one man dies for the people rather than the whole nation be destroyed?’ He didn’t say this of his own accord, but as Chief Priest that year he unwittingly prophesied that Jesus was about to die sacrificially for the nation, and not only for the nation but so that all God’s exile-scattered children might be gathered together into one people”. The Message¹

John 14:6 “Jesus told him, ‘I am the way the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’”
New Living Translation³

What does the phrase “You became the way for us” mean to you? In John we read two slightly different meanings to the phrase. Which one speaks to you? Which one more closely reflects your relationship with Jesus? Why do you feel that way? Can you relate to the other description? Describe that.

Read the refrain three times, slowly...

Forgetting all our sins, You remember all Your promises.

You are amazing, more than amazing.

Forever our God, You’re more than enough. You are amazing.

What word or phrase caught your attention? (If one didn’t, read through once more paying attention for a word or phrase.) Does that word/phrase evoke an image or feeling? Describe it. Spend some time with the word/phrase and the image or feeling it evoked. Can you sense a message from God? What is it? How does it make you feel? Reflect on that message over the next few days when you have time.

If you can’t sense a message right now, that’s OK! Hold that word or phrase -and the image or feeling it evokes - close over the next few days. Come back to it when you have some quiet time and ask God to open your heart and mind to what God wants you to take from it.

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