

Chapter 4

The Character of Jesus

When Philip, one of Jesus's apostles, asks him to "shew us the Father," Jesus replied: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father . . . [because] I am in the Father, and the Father in me" (John 14:8-10). Jesus Christ is the reflection of God to this world, representing both his character and personality. Because this is true, we ought to read the four Gospels closely, looking for how Jesus and the Father *reveal themselves* to us within the incidents and teachings of Jesus's life. Examples of reading the scriptures using this method follow.

God's Respect for Free Agency

One evening on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus unexpectedly said:

Let us pass over unto the other side . . .

And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full . . .

[Jesus] rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. (Mark 4:35, 37, 39)

When he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit,