The Other Little Ships

**Read:** Mark 4:35-39

**Text:** Mark 4:36b “…And there were also with him other little ships.”

**Introduction:** I want to use a play on words to illustrate several truths here this morning. I preached on this portion of scripture several weeks ago and didn’t have this thought at the time but sometimes I keep thinking and this is the question I asked myself: “What do the ‘other little ships’ stand for?” I read a devotional by Dr. Leon Foote and it began to answer my question. Let’s talk about some of those ‘other little ships.’

**I. The Relationship of Son-ship:** When an individual is following Jesus’s ship they become Sons of God. This truth is found in various locations in the scripture but John says it plainly in I John 3:2 “…Be-loved, now are we the sons of God…” This is one major problem that I find in the newer versions of the Bible; they remove “only begotten son” from John 3:16 and replace it with “one and only son.” This re-moves the relationship of son-ship from believers. I believe that this truth alone is worth risking the anger of others, as I stand for the Authorized Version. Galatians 4:6 says: “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” He is our daddy, we are His kids, and that makes our relation-ship on to be envied by others.

**II. Lordship:** Following Christ is not a stalking exercise. It is rather an

exercise in submission. He doesn’t just desire that we walk behind

Him but He desires that we recognize Him as our Lord. In John 13:14

Jesus says: “If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye

also ought to wash one another's feet.” Lordship is recognizing His

position in relation to our own.

**III. Fellowship & Friendship:** Someone has said that fellowship is two or more fellows in the same ship. Aren’t you glad that God will send someone along-side of us to fellowship with? We may not be loved by everyone and we may not be loved by everyone, within the church, but God will have someone to stand by us, to pray with and for us. You may be in a situation where you have to lead them to Christ but if you are faithful God will provide you with fellowship. God does not intend for you or I to be all alone and therefore He promises that He will never leave us or forsake us. Fellowship with Him alone is wonderful but then He provides brothers and sisters. Turn to one of your brothers or sisters and say: “I thank God for you.”

**IV. Citizenship:** In Hebrews 11:13-16, We are told about the patriarchs who considered themselves to be strangers here on earth and looked for a heavenly city. They had established citizenship in heaven. As you look around you on this old earth; doesn’t it make you aware that you really don’t belong here? As a sailor, I walked the streets of many countries and never did I want to live somewhere other than the United States of America. I could walk down the streets of Naples Italy and know that the filth didn’t matter because it wasn’t my home. I passed by the people washing their laundry in the muddy ditches in Mauritius knowing that this place was not my home. I held citizenship in another country. I am not just a proud American I am a proud citizen of Heaven.

**V. Worship:** Knowing about all these ships brings me to one more and that is worship. Doesn’t it make you want to worship God this morning? Don’t you want to feel His presence? There is something about worshipping that invites His presence into the situations in our lives.

Worship is different than prayer and praise. Prayer usually is asking God for something. Praise usually is thanking God for something. Worship is simply adoring God for who He is. It is recognizing His greatness and wonderfulness. It is realizing His great mercy and grace for us. Worship is specific praise directed toward the characteristics of God without attaching a specific event or occurrence to the praise.

**Conclude:** If you are here today and you do not have a relationship of son-ship; if you have not experienced the Lordship of Christ; if you have no fellowship or friendship with Jesus Christ; If you are only a citizen of earth; then you need to sign up today. You are really missing out. You are not in any ship and are in danger of drowning. Come to Jesus right now.

If you are in all of these ships then let’s worship today.