

Mark 4. 35-41

Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him."

Comment

This reading seems really timely given the pandemic and the bad weather we are experiencing at the moment. I believe that all scripture should speak to us but this reading just seems so appropriate at this time. So what does it say to us?

Well, in contrast to the Archdeacon that preceded me, I am going to make 4 points!

1. Storms will come.

Even though you may follow God faithfully as much as you know how....storms will come. There are so many that don't understand this. The disciples seemed to be shocked to find themselves in this position. After all, wouldn't God protect Jesus! How then could this happen? Doesn't god protect those he loves? How can this happen to me? These are the questions we all ask!

Let us be clear about this. A storm in your life does not mean that God does not love you, or that God is punishing you. Sometimes the storms in our lives are self-made and sometimes storms just happen. Jesus said, "[God] causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." (Matt .5.45) The important thing about storms is to be prepared for them. We are not alone, Jesus is with us.

2. Jesus is with us in the storm.

If you are going to be in a storm the one person that you need with you is Jesus. The problem was that Jesus was asleep. The disciples had two options and so do we. We can worry and assume that Jesus no longer cares or we can resist the fear and put our faith in Jesus. Never underestimate the value of having Jesus on board and never underestimate what he can do.

3. Jesus calms the storm.

At just the right time Jesus will calm the storm. Just as he did with the disciples Jesus will calm the storm. Don't worry, God knows and understands your situation. He cares for you and his timing is perfect. Peter wrote, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer." (1 Peter 3.12)

4. It is when we are in the storm that we understand who Jesus is.

Jesus knew the storm was coming, nothing takes him by surprise Jesus knew that in the storm they were safer in the will of God than no storm and out of the will of God. The disciples were not in the storm because of disobedience but because of obedience. In the moment Jesus was at peace when the disciples were going to pieces. The disciples were full of fear while Jesus was full of faith. The disciples had a lesson to learn. There is no need to fear when Jesus is near. May be that is a lesson that we need to learn too. There is no need to fear when Jesus is near.

Jesus says to us today, do not fear for I am with you always. Amen.