

Scripture Reading

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew (*Matthew 14:25-31*)

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's You," Peter replied, "tell me to come to You on the water." "Come," He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. "You of little faith," He said, "why did you doubt?" The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – You Raised Me up to Walk on Stormy Seas

The Lord expects us to walk on the stormy seas of our lives. When Peter asked the Lord to tell him to come to Jesus, Jesus simply replied, "Come." Peter was the impetuous one who was always very quick with his actions. He was the rash one who cut off the ear of one of the men sent to arrest Jesus, and the first to enter the empty tomb of Jesus. However, even in the midst of the swirling, dangerous waters around them, Jesus did not tell Peter to stay in the boat. In fact Peter could have stayed in the boat and waited for Jesus to come aboard. What was the Lord's motive?

Faith has been given and it is enough for us to walk on stormy seas. Faith if not manifested becomes a dead faith, useless to anyone. *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? (James 2:14).* When Jesus said to Peter, "Come," He was asking Peter to demonstrate his faith. Peter already had the gift of faith. Jesus was not asking Peter to do a dangerous foolhardy stunt to impress the others in the boat. Jesus was proven right when Peter could walk on the choppy sea towards Him. With faith, Peter was operating on a supernatural plane till fear and doubts overcame him.

We tripped when we focussed on the problem instead of the presence of the Lord. We notice that Peter was doing fine walking on the choppy waters till he became frightened as he saw how strong the wind was. In fact the strong wind was present all the time there during the whole night.

Seeking the Lord's gifts rather than living in the reassuring presence of the Lord. *Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for Me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill (John 6:26).* In Jesus' time the people sought Him out not for His presence to adore Him and venerate Him as Son of God but rather to seek something from Him. Human nature has not changed much over two thousand years. In our prayers we inundated the Lord with many petitions and requests but our praise and adoration was marked by their scarcity. When we have a problem our reflex action is to seek for a solution, and we rightfully seek it from the Lord. Nevertheless, till the severity of the problem goes away, we are anxious and sinking in the water just like Peter. We have forgotten like Peter to live in the reassuring presence of the Lord who could command the problem to go away if He so wishes. And so, we limped through our problems. We are not the ones who could walk on stormy waters even though we have the potential power to do so. Certainly we cannot do better than conquerors that St. Paul said we should in Christ (cf. Romans 8:37). Consequently, our lives are mediocre. Non-believers are not impressed with our faith, and our lives hardly make a ripple in those around us.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for the gift of faith. Help me to realise the power that I have in my faith. You allow trials and difficulties into my life so that I can have the opportunity to manifest my faith and trust in You. With my faith You can work the impossible in my life. For with God nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37) and all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). Yes, You raised me up to walk on stormy seas to manifest Your glory and to draw souls to Yourself. Through my faith and always seeking Your Presence may You be able to do whatsoever You wish to do in and with my life for the salvation of my soul and that of others. Let all the peoples and nations rise up and adore You Lord! Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for the salvation of all Your children. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.