



Scripture nugget – Do not be afraid, God is always in charge

But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.” Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you; your walls are ever before Me (Isaiah 49:14-16).

The love, the power and the constancy of God are our bulwark. We are most afraid in situations in which we find ourselves facing the terrifying unknown, or something overwhelmingly unpleasant or dangerous, and yet not having any human power to mitigate it. To our every fear, the Lord says: *Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My victorious right hand (Isaiah 41:10).* The Lord promises us that He will never forget us; and we are engraved on the palms of His hands (cf. Isaiah 49:15-16). Love of His children is what makes God always present to them. Through Prophet Jeremiah, God tells us He has loved us with an everlasting love (cf. Jeremiah 31:3). He has proven this beyond a shadow of doubt when He did not hesitate to send Jesus, His only begotten Son to die on the Cross as atonement for our sins. No higher force exists which can stop God from loving us. Even when we are sinners, God loves us. His love is extended to everyone. God makes His sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust (cf. Matthew 5:45). We are driven frequently by our pride and feelings but God is driven by His love and truth for He is love (cf. 1 John 4:8) and truth (cf. John 14:6). Unlike us, God does not change (cf. James 1:17). Time and space are His creations. He is outside the constraints of time and space. He is everywhere; and He is ageless. He is the Eternal Now. He is the great I Am. He is the source of all power. Nothing happens without God allowing it to happen. We may not understand His ways but He is always in charge because there is no power higher than His. He can draw good out of evil if we accept our sufferings and trust in Him (cf. Romans 8:28).

God is very near to those in trouble and quick to rescue us. *The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, saves those whose spirit is crushed (Psalm 34:19).* Which parent is not attentive and solicitous when his child is not well? We see how fast Jesus was in rescuing Peter when he was being drowned in the rough sea as he was walking on the water towards Jesus. *But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:30-31).* Scripture tells us that even before we call to God, He is already preparing His response (cf. Isaiah 65:24)! We are safe and secure in God’s capable and strong hands.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, not a single sparrow fall from the sky without You knowing about it. Yes, I am worth more than a sparrow. I am precious to You, and You have proven it by Your indescribable and sacrificial love. You note even the number of hair on my head (cf. Matthew 10:30). You told me not to worry as my worry will not add a single hour to my life (Matthew 6:27). Your uplifting love, Your awesome power, and Your constant faithfulness are my unshakeable security. Being in Your will is to remain in the most secure place in the world. Then, in life and in death, I belong only to You, my Creator, my Lord, my delight, my support, my purpose and my fulfillment. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.