

TRINITY NEWS

Sea Sunday Being Peace in the Chaos of Human Storms

The little narrative of the storm on the lake at Mark 4:35-41 resonates with so much that is going on around us at this moment in our Good Friday World. Those who “go down to the sea in ships” will be at the second service this morning after traversing the oceans of the world. They know the exhilaration of sight and sound that the sea offers and the enormous power that it can unleash, an ever present danger no matter how sturdy the ship.

When the storm strikes the little fishing boat on Lake Galilee Jesus is asleep in the stern resting on a cushion. When the waves begin to swamp the boat his disciples screamed out to him fear as they woke him up in their fright: “Teacher, don’t you know that we are perishing?” It is the age old cry to God from those who are in fear when confronted with a perilous moment. Like all of us they don’t quite get it, but their real channel to God is through Jesus and they know it in their more perceptive moments.

The Psalms are full of laments to God about a present danger or need that is daunting for the voices in the psalms. Jesus may have had some contacts with the Essenes associated with Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls. They are the earliest authentication that we have of sections of the Tanach that we call the Old Testament. *"The Thoughts of the Son of Man lead him to the heavenly kingdoms, and thus is paradise built on earth. Then it is that your thoughts uplift our souls, as the cold water of a rushing stream revives your body in the summer heat"* (Essene Gospel of Peace, Book 4). *"Nothing real can ever be lost or taken away"* (Book 2). This is not Scripture, but it is contemporary wisdom from the time of Jesus that was in circulation not far from the scene before us in the Gospel of Mark.

"He woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Be still'. Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm" (Mark 4: 39). Both elements are curbed and stillness follows. We may still our minds about one aspect of a troubling matter and then another appears. How fortunate are those who can swiftly see all aspects of a dilemma and find peaceful solutions.

Jesus chastises his followers for their fear and their lack of trust in him. But they did turn to him and they expressed their awe at his capacity to still both the wind and the raging sea.

Out of the storm comes peace. Jesus gave us the gift of peace on Easter day. We have to be at peace before we can bestow peace. *“For happy are they that strive for peace, for they will find the peace of the Heavenly Father, and give to everyone his peace, even as I have given peace to you, for my peace is of God”* (Essene Gospel of Peace, Book 3). The speaker is perhaps the Teacher of Righteousness from Qumran, but the resonances are similar.

Air travel has robbed us of being at the stern of a ship at night and watching the following wake in the dim light of the stars and moon. It is a tranquil place to be at peace and to allow peace to seep into our souls and be peace and spread it to the world in prayer.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Rectory

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel
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NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Colossians 1:21-29

Luke 10:38-42