

AUGUST 9, 2020
Sunday of the 19th Week in OT
Matthew 14: 22-33

“LORD, SAVE ME.”

Last week of July I had my vacation at Kelowna. One of the best experiences that I had was the water tubing. Before I'm contented looking at people doing that. At first, I was so afraid but sometimes I need to get out of my comfort zone and try new things. Throughout the ride, the only thing that I did was to hold on to the handle, and it helped me to relax and enjoy it. My two companions did it once but me four times! My lesson: relax, enjoy new things, and hold on to the grip in order not to be thrown out of the water.

Our gospel for today is the continuation of our gospel reading last Sunday: the story about the feeding of thousand people by our Lord Jesus while they were in the desert. Immediately after He fed them, He made the disciples to get into the boat to go to the opposite shore while He sent the crowd away. After that, Jesus Himself went up on the mountain to pray. This is the first lesson that I would like to talk about. Jesus prayed after His work, His mission to be with His Father. Prayer and being with His Father will always be His priority. In all His life, Jesus has always time to pray and most of the time in all His major decisions and events in His life. My brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ is reminding us this kind of attitude: pray always and find time to pray. Keep on praying even if we experience difficulties in life because in communion with God, we can find peace and contentment. Only our Lord will give us true happiness and we can experience when we are united with Him in prayer.

The second part of the gospel is the experience of the disciples in the stormy sea, strong winds and waves. The disciples were having a hard time battling the dangers around them. But the Lord is there! Out of wind and strong wave and fear comes a comforting voice: “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.”¹ The exchange of words between Jesus and Peter gives us the second lesson of our gospel today: fix your eyes on Jesus amidst storm, trials and now

¹ Matthew 14: 27 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA

pandemic and uncertainties of this world. “Characteristically, Peter is the first to respond. He is the impulsive one, but he is also the group’s leader. “If it is really you, Lord, tell me to come to you across the water.” “Come,” says Jesus, inviting him to leave the shelter of his boat and go to where the wind and waves are. Peter starts to make his way to the Lord, who is in the wind and the waves, but his fear is too much, and he begins to sink. “Lord, save me!” is the cry, a cry echoed by Christians all down the ages who have felt that the world was ready to crush them.”²

Peter has a lot of weaknesses and Jesus was always there to rescue him. The Lord went to lift him up and brought him back to the boat. Peter once he realized his mistakes, he always got up and asked for forgiveness, and the Lord always forgave and accepted him. Despite his weaknesses and failures, Jesus never expelled Peter from His circle of friends but was chosen to be their leader. Jesus is and will always give chances to people to be back to His fold and embrace His commandments and love.

My brothers and sisters, we will be safe on the sea of life as long as our eyes are focus on our Lord no matter how difficult life may be. He will surely never allow us to live in great danger of sinking into a turbulent water of problems, hardship, and adversity. He will always extend His hands to save us. So, let us bring to Him our fears, weaknesses, and difficulties especially as we experience this pandemic and uncertainties, and like St. Peter we cry and pray to Jesus: “Lord, save me!”³

Let this be our prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, help me to always believe in You and to never hesitate and doubt Your loving presence and Your power to help me. In my doubt and weakness, may I hold on to You as Peter did. Strengthen my faith that I may neither swing to the left nor to the right but only to You and nothing more. Amen.”

² <https://livingspace.sacredspace.ie>

³ Matthew 14: 30 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA