

JUNE 20, 2021
Sunday of the 12th Week in OT
Mark 4: 35-41

“DON'T FEAR, GOD IS WITH US ALWAYS!”

“There is a story of about a captain who in his retirement skippered a boat taking day trippers to Shetland Islands in Scotland. On one trip the boat was full of young people. They laughed at the old captain when they saw him saying a prayer before sailing out, because the day was fine and the sea was calm. However they weren't long at sea when a storm suddenly blew up and the boat began to pitch violently. The terrified passengers came to the captain and asked him to join them in prayer. But he replied, ‘I say my prayers when it's calm. When it's rough I attend to my ship.’ - There is here a lesson for us. If we cannot and will not seek God in quiet moments of our lives, we are not likely to find him when trouble strikes. But if we learn to seek him in quiet moments, then most certainly we will find him when the going gets rough.”¹

There will always be storms, problems and difficulties in our lives. It happens, still happening and will happen to us. The question is: are we ready when storm comes? The captain in our story anticipates that whether storm will come or not along the way, he already prayed. If the storm comes, he is not busy praying but attending to his ship. Likewise we are all invited to do the same: pray always – pray when it is quiet and calm, and pray when the storm hits us. Don't stop praying but it is wonderful to pray when the storms are not yet around us to prepare us. My sisters and brothers, why are we frighten, afraid or fearful? Storms in life will come and will go but if we trust and have faith in God who loves us, we will be saved even if we die to this world. Those who rely on God and at peace can affect people around them and we too can calm the storm of others. “Faith enables us to relate to God rightly and confidently, with trust and reliance, by believing and adhering to His word, because He is utterly reliable and trustworthy. If we want to live, grow, and persevere in faith, then it must be

¹ www.stories4homilies.co

nourished with the word of God. Fear does not need to cripple us from taking right action or rob us of our trust and reliance on God. Courage working with faith enables us to embrace God's word of truth and love with confidence and to act on it with firm hope in God's promises. The love of God strengthens us in our faith and trust in him and enables us to act with justice and kindness towards our neighbor even in the face of opposition or harm.”² My sisters and brothers, God is telling us ‘Don’t be afraid. I’m watching you all the time.’ Jesus is not sleeping, so, why are we fearful and afraid. Do we have no faith in Him?

A woman who “just a few weeks after her surgery; the chemotherapy treatments had begun. Every morning, she would comb her hair — and every morning she would pull out another clump of her beautiful hair from the brush. This side effect was hitting her harder and harder. One morning, she felt the top of her head and, for the first time, she could count the strands. But she felt strangely at peace. She said: ‘I felt comfort knowing that God knew how many strands were in my brush, on my pillow, in my hat, and in my hand. God had counted them all. With or without my hair, God knew me and what my future held. I was still afraid — of the cancer, of the chemo, the upcoming brain scan, and its results — but I knew that God would be with me through it all.’ She held each strand — just as God, in his providence, could count them from the moment God breathed His life into her. She became aware of God present in the love of her family and friends who were supporting and suffering with her.”³ My sisters and brothers, God is with us, do not be afraid! As we also celebrate Father’s Day, let us pray for all our fathers that God may guide and reward them of their goodness and love for all of us. May God always bless and protect them.

Let this be our prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and increase my faith. May I always rely on You, courageous and not afraid of anything because You are always watching me and I recognize Your abiding presence with me. I have faith in You that You will calm the storms in my life. Amen.”

² www.dailyscripture.net/

³ www.stories4homilies.co