



Daily Reflections

May 4, 2019

Scripture

John 6: 16-21

When it was evening, the disciples of Jesus went down to the sea, embarked in a boat, and went across the sea to Capernaum.

It had already grown dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

The sea was stirred up because a strong wind was blowing.

When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they began to be afraid.

But he said to them, "It is I. Do not be afraid."

They wanted to take him into the boat, but the boat immediately arrived at the shore to which they were heading.

Our Scripture Reflection

After watching Jesus turn water into lots of wine, cure the sick, feed 5000 men with a very small amount of bread and fish, how could they possibly be frightened when they saw Him walk on water? How quickly they and we forget! When you look back through the years you have lived, how many times were you rescued by Jesus? Can you not conclude, therefore, that Jesus who rescued you in the past will not be there for you today and tomorrow as well?

Food for your Journey

"I was hurtling still farther into the depths, both down there and above, watching myself fall as one does in a nightmare, falling through myself, out of my own soul, which never existed anyway, incalculable distances below the solid rocks of faith and truth into fathomless cold dead space an infinity and eternity deep, where there was no God nor Christ nor faith, nor hope, nor certainty nor salvation and never would be ever again."

This is how Tony Hendra describes a crisis in his spiritual life. Terrified by the experience, he sought out an old mentor of his, Father Joe, a Benedictine monk.

Father Joe knew just what Tony was going through. He explained the experience in this way: "You fell in love with God, you see, and now the romantic part is over. It happens to us all, I'm afraid."

"I'll never have that feeling of light and certainty again," said Tony.

"Someday you'll experience a much greater light and certainty than just feelings," answered Father Joe. "God gave you a great gift that terrible night."

Father Joe was right. Tony did recover his faith, in time. But he had learned something important. He now knew he could not summon God. He had to wait for God to find him.

--Tony Hendra, *Father Joe: The Man Who Saved My Soul* (Random House, 2004), 88, 97-98.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, How quickly I forget Your goodness to me from as far back as I can remember. You have always been there for me. When I find myself in times of trouble, strengthen my faith with the power of Your Grace. Keep me strong, Lord. Amen