



Daily Reflections

January 6, 2021

Scripture

Mark 6:45-52

And immediately he obliged his disciples to go up into the ship, that they might go before him over the water to Bethsaida, whilst he dismissed the people.

And when he had dismissed them, he went up to the mountain to pray.

And when it was late, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and himself alone on the land. And seeing them labouring in rowing, (for the wind was against them,) and about the fourth watch of the night, he cometh to them walking upon the sea, and he would have passed by them.

But they seeing him walking upon the sea, thought it was an apparition, and they cried out.

For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he spoke with them, and said to them: Have a good heart, it is I, fear ye not.

And he went up to them into the ship, and the wind ceased: and they were far more astonished within themselves:

For they understood not concerning the loaves; for their heart was blinded.

Our Scripture Reflection

One of the unique features of Mark's Gospel when it is compared to the other Gospel is how negative a picture he paints of the disciples. They had just witnessed Jesus feed 5,000 people with just a little bit of food. They then encounter Jesus out on a lake walking on water and they are beside themselves with fear! Why? Mark tells us "their hearts were blinded" about the miraculous feeding, or in other words, they are stubborn and hard-hearted due to their lack of faith. What an unfortunate reaction by men who were so close to Jesus. But are we not the same at times???

Food for your Journey

"Let us pray to God that we may be free of God," the 13th-century mystic Meister Eckhart wrote, implying that our conceptions of God must always fall short, always fail. Let's name honestly, he suggested, the impostor gods we conjure because we fear the Mystery who really is.

Some gods slough off easily. But others cling. Here are the ones I'm struggling to prise off now: The god who bargains, transacts and seals the deal. If I do A, then god does B. If I behave, then I'll be loved. If I mess up, I'll make god angry. If I work hard, I'll earn forgiveness. If I'm the best, I'll earn a blessing.

The god whose omnipotence guarantees my safety -- the god who spares the children, cures the cancer, stops the rapist and defuses the bomb.

The god whose perfect will controls everything -- the god who secures parking spots, pay raises, soccer victories and SAT scores.

The god who makes faith easy -- by providing answers, erasing doubts, planting signs and peddling miracles; by coming when called, and leaving when dismissed.

--Debie Thomas, "The long goodbye," JourneyWithJesus.net, November 5, 2017.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, At times I am so much like those apostles in the boat. I believe in You, or at least I think I do, and then when I am put to the test, I collapse! I have come to realize, Lord, that the worst thing I could do is give up, to just walk away. Help me, please, to be steadfast and persistent. Help me to dig in my heels and to trust You at all times and in all things, Lord. Amen