



Daily Reflections

January 28, 2017

Scripture

Mark 4:35-41

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples:

"Let us cross to the other side."

Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was.

And other boats were with him.

A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up.

Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.

They woke him and said to him,

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

He woke up,

rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!"

The wind ceased and there was great calm.

Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified?"

Do you not yet have faith?"

They were filled with great awe and said to one another,

"Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

Our Scripture Reflection

Oh my! Can you imagine Jesus saying to you, "Do you not yet have faith" during your times of fear and doubt?

Why do we fear? In the Bible, fear is the direct opposite of faith. We fear at times because our faith is not yet strong enough to handle a particular crisis. There is good news, however. With each crisis there is an opportunity to grow stronger in faith if only we ask for the Lord's Grace and push through the crisis WITH HIM.

Food for your Journey

We speak so casually of the presence of God. We assume certain things of it; that it is nice, that it is soothing, encouraging, affirmative. This, of course, is a reflection of our wishes, and indeed there are times when the presence of God is thus. But to describe the presence of God in this way is like describing the ocean as calm, the wind as a whisper or fire as warming. There can be terror to the presence of God. The fact that we sometimes feel this terror, its demand, its vocation, its cost, is precisely the measure of how clear is our understanding of God.

--Herbert O'Driscoll, *Portrait of a Woman* (New York: Seabury Press, 1981), 22-23.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please give me the Grace I need to stand tall and firm during the trials I encounter in this life. When I am tempted to fear, let me know that You are near. Amen.