

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Job 38:1,8-11*

◆ **Second Reading:** *2 Corinthians 5:14-17*

◆ **Gospel:** *Mark 4:35-41*

That must have been a terrifying experience for the apostles, to be caught unprepared in a threatening storm “**Master, do you not care?, we are going down, the waves are breaking into the boat, we’re nearly swamped**” : They were afraid because death-by-drowning was not far from them ; The flow of life is synonymous with this scenario, the storms of life have to be dealt with, and running away may not be an option ; over the past 15 months many people have expressed an increase of fear in their lives because of the virus “I’m afraid of the virus, I don’t want to pick it up and be carted off to hospital, an’ maybe die gasping for breath”(God-between-us-and-all-harm)

Fear has a gripping effect on a person “I was frozen with fear” ; what are you and I afraid of? What if our worst nightmare became a reality? how would we deal with it? : we have our options on how to deal with fear, face it, deal with it, pray about it or run from it, of course it’ll rebound and catch up with us later on :

The man in the middle of this violent storm was asleep in the stern, with his head on a cushion, and not too disturbed by all the commotion, matter of fact he was surprized by both their fear and their lack of Faith “**WHY ARE YOU SO FRIGHTENED**” he asked them “**..AND HOW IS IT THAT YOU HAVE NO FAITH?**”, then he rebuked the storm and everyone calmed down.

Later on I wonder did Jesus reprimand the apostles for their lack of faith! Jesus had been with them in the middle of the storm ; Life is full of storms, why it sometimes has to be like that?, I don’t know ; we were never promised “a-storm-free-life”,as in, plain sailing and live happily ever after, not even the rich and well-to-do can have such a life, they also have their personal storms to deal with, like all of us.

The encouraging aspect of this Gospel reading is that the Saviour Jesus was WITH them in the middle of the storm ; they approached him pleading for help, and they got that help ; I wonder how things would have worked out if they hadn't bothered to ask him for help, would they have gone under? , who knows?

We humans are inclined to go under when we don't put all our trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and when that happens, FEAR can take over and leave us in a state of internal anxiety which is not a pleasant experience, then we come along and ask "oh! I wonder where was God in all my turmoil?" ; Don't blame God for the storms of life, his own son was crucified for doing nothing wrong, how do you explain that? The darker side of humanity is to be more feared than any other threat on this planet **"THE HEART IS MORE DEVIIOUS THAN ANY OTHER THING, PERVERSE TOO!, WHO CAN PIERCE Its SECRETS** (Jeremiah 17 ; 9) ; think about what ruins your inner harmony because of fear, pray about it! the courage you need in order to face your worst fears is there for the asking "Lord, lead me", "Lord, walk with me as I now have to face my worst fear" ; "Lead, kindly light, Lead thou me on" or here's a short easy word of encouragement you can take home with you **"FEAR KNOCKED ON THE DOOR, FAITH ANSWERED, THERE WAS NO-ONE THERE"**

Perhaps as a spiritual work of charity, we could pray for those whose lives are blighted by fear, especially for workers who have to endure a bully-of-a-boss ; also for those who wake up every morning in a fearful state and find it almost impossible to face the trials of each day.

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