

Experienced fishermen, in well-known waters, brought to the fear of death. Thought they're going to die. Crying in desperation. The Lord hears their prayer, the storm is over. But there is more.

But first think about Job in the Old Testament. Here in chapter 38, God encounter Job first hand, reveals, masks Himself in a storm, although God has been involved in Job all along. The book of Job starts with that dialogue that Satan contends with the Lord over Job. Job is tormented, losing all his family, all his possessions, great bodily afflictions, but the Lord will only allow so much, for the Lord is in control and whatever hardships befall His people, the Lord brings a greater good to bless Job. But all those other chapters you see dialogue between Job and his friends. And Job's friends all try to explain why bad things are happening, why Job is suffering so, what has Job done; trying to think Job has a secret sin, trying to explain God. They're all wrong, and yet as time goes by Job is fed-up. He's at his wits end with God. Then, accuses, contends now with God, why! How dare you God! What have I done to deserve this! That God has been unfair. So from a storm the Lord speaks, not unlike Mt. Sinai, speaks to Job.

And you see who really has the answers to life. Its not Job' friends, its not Job's wife, its not Job. When God speaks. It is the final word. "Job, all of you, you don't know what you are talking about in your wisdom. I alone am God and gives the answers." Job still has no idea what is going on, why he endures such trials, but to trust: Job, you have a loving God, a perfect Father, who does not leave you. Job was led to trust God, still guiding the course of his life, even though Job could not understand it or explain why he goes through what he does. Trust in this gracious God working. That God is speaking to you right here in the very words of Scripture for your today.

So back to Jesus calming a storm. **Do you not care Jesus we are perishing!** Don't you care Jesus? And **Peace be still. Then There was a great calm.** You can picture it, hurricane force type winds and waves -then immediately, perfectly still water. Great fear seizes them. With them, even you, with Lord, there is nothing to be afraid of, even if death comes. There is no real danger. Just like Job, nothing escapes our Lord's control, nothing outside of His loving care.

It's not just about the power of our Creator, this Jesus, this man. While that is amazing enough, the miracle, what is going on here is far beyond that.

What Job says, like the disciples charge to Jesus- that even you have thought and said, **do you not care Jesus, do you not care we are perishing?**

Do not overlook this. The reason Jesus calms the storm... is the very same reason you receive every good gift from the Lord. The reason for Jesus actions

for them, for you, is only because of God and man is reconciled in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus on the cross. The reason any good thing is in your life, the reason you have care, the reason you have an immune system, is because God Himself, true God, true man, came to talk came of your overwhelming great need in all of life: forgiveness of sins, and He binds Himself to you. When Jesus says **Peace be still**, He is announcing God and man are reconciled and that only happens when He answered for your sins on a cross. The truth is when you see a story as this, sustaining life, caring for your life, protecting your life, it is only because of Jesus upon a cross.

We don't believe because God gives us answers to all our questions. We believe that Christ is the answer to all that matters; we cling to Him like a lifeline when your hearts are ready to give up, your bodies ache from wounds, your spirits near despair of trials, piled upon us by a world at odds with God's eternal will, an evil enemy working at every turn to cause you doubt and question God's love, and your sinful self, raging inside— so to give up on God and live for the moment.

Perhaps there is no more important theological lesson to learn than this: God is not like us. He does not submit to our ideas. He seems to be sleeping, ignoring us in a boat with storms raging; but are His disciples in any real danger.

Jesus did not come to just perform miracles, calm storms. He came to be a sacrifice for you. This is who he is. He suffers and takes on all the storms of life and hell's fury for you. This is why he comes. He is the Lord whose love you cannot lose. No matter how many times you fail Him in the storms, the many times your faith is pitiful, no matter how many times you distrust Him when the sea is raging...you will never stop Him, from loving you and His compassion to act, to care for you.

**Have you still no faith?** We cannot create, sustain, or grow our faith, so we come here... to receive His gifts, nourishment of the Word, Sacraments to forgive, strengthen us for the many storms we face.

Are you of little faith? Indeed. We're unworthy in every way. But He made a promise to you. His Name is upon you. Save us, O Lord. Deliver us. Lord, count us among those fearful disciples. Let us be your failing disciples that You might show your grace in us. We have no boast or claim to your mercy. But we have your Word and promise. That is enough. Give us Lord the faith we lack.

He speaks words for you that nothing can stand against. **Peace, be still.** That's what we all need. Great calm, a quiet peace, silencing all fears, our troubled hearts. Peace only Jesus can give. A baptismal promise **I will never leave you.** Yes, come what may in this life, you are His. You have nothing to fear. Nothing can truly harm you. **Peace, be still.**