

A Lutheran pastor with his wife, 5 yr old went to visit their homeland in Europe. On the trip, the child became ill, they did what they could but their daughter died. They buried her in their ancestral homeland. Their original booking back to the US was missed due to the funeral. So they booked the next available trip; they became passengers on the Titanic. If you think of great tragedy at sea, I think of the USS Indianapolis or Lusitania, you shouldn't have to google those. No one thinks of today's Gospel.

Everyone's still fascinated by the Titanic. The hymn we just sang; sung that day in worship, 105 yrs ago this April. There were 8 pastors on board, who rightly all stayed on the ship. Including Lutheran pastor Lahtinen. His wife could get into the lifeboat but gave up her place when she learned her husband would be staying, she stayed at his side. Another pastor famously yelled, all women and child and unsaved get in the lifeboats! When he gave up his life jacket to another he stated, I'm not going down with the ship, I'm going up. No one, no one here knows exactly how they would act, react in a life threatening crisis. We all have ideas, our bravado, but we don't know.

It must have been really bad, really, really bad. Those disciples were experienced fisherman, years on the water, they're scared. All of a sudden, it doesn't matter who caught the most fish, who has the nicest house, or whether or not they'll be having leftovers again. The petty things of this life lose their significance in a crisis. They're afraid. Recognize just how frail and weak they are, as frail, as weak, not in control -as you and me.

Save us, Lord; we are perishing. We've all been there or you will be. *"Lord, don't you care? Aren't you concerned about my situation? Do you see what's going on, why don't you do more?"* We're all guilty in our own way of the same sin of the disciples. Must God always perform miracles; remove dangerous storms for you to believe that He cares? Answer me? **Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?** Our faith can be so pitifully weak that when storms arise we can't see things as they really are, we mistrust God's work, lack confidence to accept His good and gracious will, especially when we don't see it or understand the 'why' in this life.

Sometimes it takes tragedies to teach us that again, to expose us. How fortunate we are have a God who sends us not just nice weather, but those storms we need. That...is the incredible thing about storms: they're used by God to actually strengthen, grow our faith in Christ; for they cause us to

despair of our own ability to deal with the situation, to draw you closer to Him, who alone will see you through.

We don't believe because God gives us answers to all our questions. We believe Christ is the answer to all that matters; we cling to Him like a lifeline, when: the ship is going down; when your hearts are ready to give-up; you ache from wounds; your spirit despairs of troubles and trials, and a world and evil enemy working at every turn to cause you doubt and question God's love.

Perhaps there's no more important theological lesson to learn than this: God is not like us. He does not submit to our ideas. His ways are not our ways. His thoughts are not our thoughts. We live by faith not by knowledge or understanding. Because He doesn't seem to be doing the right thing. He seems to be sleeping, ignoring us with storms raging; but are His disciples in any real danger.

Trust not for answers to all your questions but cling to His promises. What do you have to fear? When has He ever failed you? Answer me.

Are we of **little faith**? Indeed. No matter how many times you fail Him, your faith is pitiful, no matter how many times you distrust Him when the sea is raging... you will never stop Him. His love, compassion with you every moment, every breath, every time you are being tossed by the storms of life. . He wants all your fears. Whatever troubles you, things that keep you up at night or causes anxiety. He takes them upon Himself into His death at the cross. He speaks words for you that nothing, nothing can stand against.

Then He rose (yea same word as His resurrection) and rebuked the winds and the sea and there was a great calm. That's what we all need. A great calm, silencing all fear, calm to troubled hearts because He rose and speaks.

We cannot create, sustain, or grow our faith, so we come here... to receive His gifts of faith, spiritual nourishment of faith of the Word and Sacrament to forgive, strengthen us for the tragedies, storms we face.

Are we of little faith? Indeed. 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, forgiveness, and promise. That is enough. Give us Lord the faith that we

lack. and bring us safely home. **What sore of man is this that even the winds and sea obey Him**, who gave His life for you? Fathom that mystery, O Christian, for there alone is your daily care, safety when you face tragedies, storms of life.