

³⁵That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

There He was, Our Lord, in the middle of a storm, seated calmly, resting in a boat with His disciples, when suddenly came a storm/squall from nowhere - water, wind, rain and even imminent death. Yet, there Christ sat, calm, resolute, unaffected, unnerved against the fury of nature and the anxious frenetic cries of his followers.

This interesting account makes us think about *how one's Faith* can help overcome the storms of anxiety, fear, worry and impatience that we confront everyday of our lives.

We know what Our Lord did, and what happened as His power brought about peace and calm. But more importantly, His question to the Disciples and even to us is...*Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?*" These are the words we need to think about as well.

Though WE don't have the power to change the course of a hurricane, tornado, typhoon, raging forest fires, and all nature's storms in an instant, like Christ God, it is with our faith in Him- that Jesus points out- we are able to discover *the calm and peace we seek in life*. With faith, we can take control.

Every day, in every hour, we are caught up in personal storms; having to make decisions, choices. We may sometimes find ourselves in the midst of an argument or debate with uncontrollable thoughts, words, deeds. We may confront the anguish of having to speak the truth even if it might make those close to us upset. Jesus tells and even shows us that first with faith - God can bring us through these storms – bring calm and even peace. This story says boldly, *don't let the wind blow you away*. Rather, listen for the breath from within, the breath from the Holy Spirit. Be still, the calm will come. When we have faith, we shall hear God speak.

And to go one step further, Our Lord wants us not just to 'have faith', but to 'use faith' with our minds, our hearts, our wisdom, and our actions. If we don't use faith, we can lose faith and the calm we seek may never come.

Even in our St. John's family, there are such good people driven by faith, not panicking because of these hard times and wondering if we shall survive, or giving over to despair when our efforts fall short, but doing, using, and living their faith to still the stormy challenges so that the peace and calm we want to

enjoy as a community of faith can prevail. And God bless you all who choose to rise above the storms.

Time and time again, Our Lord reminds us, *Do not let your hearts be troubled - Trust in God and Trust in me.* i.e., have faith but more importantly use your faith to find your way to the calm and peace you seek. When we do, life will be calm and like Jesus we can – by the Grace of God - subdue those daily storms and squalls we encounter every day. When you walk through the storm, hold your head up high and don't be afraid... for at the end of the storm, there's a golden sky.

Remember this...

Life is not waiting for the storms to pass us.

It's about dancing in the rain to find the end of the rainbow.

And when when our dance with God is filled with faith, the peace will come.