

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As the storm raged, the captain realized his ship was sinking fast. He called out, *"Anyone here knows how to pray?"*

A pastor stepped forward. *"Captain, I know how to pray."*

*"Good,"* said the captain, *"you pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets – we're one short."*

Dear Friends,

Today's reading asks us to reflect about how God take control of our life when we trust him more.

In the first reading God answers Job's questions. Ironically, God's answers are not answers. He rather questions Job like public prosecutor questioning a witness in the dock, questions which Job cannot answer, seemingly ordinary questions of observable data.

Job tries to answer with humility and innocence. He believes in God. In other words, he maintains innocent people's suffering on earth that has nothing to do with their sinfulness.

In the Gospel, Jesus calms the storm. After listening to all the parables, Mark puts the miracles together to bring trust and faith in Jesus.

Today's Gospel calls us to do something different or to be someone different. The first miracle is the theme of storm. Our lives are stormy. There are lot of sunny days and stormy days in our lives.

The first theme that develops here is that on that evening Jesus and his disciples went across to the other side. if you are a morning person, which many of us are, we become tired or weary, we want to relax or retire from our work, lot of us especially young families run after sports and other activities in the evening all throughout the year. We don't wake up in the morning weary, we make up in the morning fresh, hopeful, excited for the day, ready to get at it, not every day may be.

The disciples and Jesus are weary in a sense, Jesus says, "let us go across the other side." What is the other side in your life right now? if Jesus says to you today let us go across tp the other side, come with me. What that mean to you and me? What would he be inviting us to?

Today Jesus is inviting you and me to go with him to the other side and maybe that is something to do with your relationship, maybe It has something to do with your kids, maybe with your money, maybe something with your job, maybe something with your spirituality, maybe something to do with your health, your marriage, your children. You know what it is for you, and I know what it is for me. Jesus said to us today, "come with me let us go across to the other side." We want to, right? Sometimes we don't want to.

Sometimes we want to go to the other side. But we want Jesus to take us and drop us on the other side. We don't want to make that journey. We don't want that transition. That's why sometimes we are resistant. We don't know what is going to be on other side. We are scared. It is unpredictable. That's why we are hesitant.

The second theme would be most of the times we worry that Jesus is sleeping. We know most of the things that we worry about actually never happen. Imagine how much Jesus knows about it.

The disciples woke him up and asked, "Do you not care?" This is the question we ask to God. Nothing different than the disciples. Jesus asks us why are we afraid? I am with you. I will be with you till the end of days. Why are you worried? I am with you. The only time you need to worry is when you step away from me.

This is incredibly powerful. He is here with you and me in our journey.

Let us reflect on these two questions today.

What is the other side that Jesus is inviting you today to join with him?

What is the storm in your life currently right now? And where is Jesus in this storm? Are you with Jesus? Is Jesus asleep? It is going to be okay if he is with you?

Let us journey with him across the other side.

Let us pray.