



A Bridge Over Troubled Waters

Read: Mark 4:35-41

I can only imagine the sheer terror the disciples felt in the boat as it was rocked by the waves of the sea. Having been stuck in the middle off a lake during a storm I know it's not pleasant. Yet, how often do we have storms in our own lives, moments when we lose focus on God?

Here the disciples are, Jesus is in the boat and they rouse him accusing him of not caring. We all have challenged God at some point. Raising our voices to the heavens and crying out for him, questioning his love, his saving power in our lives. We have all been irritated with God, thinking that he is merely taking a nap while we endure the treacherous seas alone. "Get up!" we cry, "save us!"

"I know the plans I have for you...plans for good and not for disaster" (Jeremiah 29:11).

When the tempest rages against us we often think God no longer cares. Sometimes God uses suffering for moments of spiritual growth. Sometimes the storms help us remember that Jesus is in our boat but not awake in our lives. Sometimes he uses them to give us a good kick in the pants. But we must always remember that God will never let us perish. The Bible teaches us that God has a plan for our lives. God says, God only wants what is good for us. He does not allow the disasters in our life to destroy us. This may be little consolation when we are hanging on for dear life in our little dingy with dishes piled high, screaming children, sports events to go to and so on and so on.

So what does Jesus do? He gets up and rebukes the waves. But so often he is rebuking us, "Quiet! Be still!" Slow down, take a deep breath, what really matters? Do you not realize that only I can calm the storms of your life? Have faith in me, make time for me, give your life to me, "for my yoke is easy and my burden light." He will rebuke the storms we encounter if we put him at the center of our lives. It doesn't mean we won't run into troubling waters, but it does mean that Jesus is always in our boat. We don't need to be afraid. Jesus is with us.