

Peace! Be Still! Have Faith!

Job 38: 1-4, 8-11; Ps. 107; 2 Cor. 5: 14-17; Mk. 4: 35-41

Jesus and His disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee when they were caught in a sudden storm. The wind was howling and the high waves were threatening to swamp the boat. The disciples were afraid, yet, Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat.

When the disciples roused Jesus, they asked Him: "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" This is a common cry that we raise to God when we encounter struggles or suffering in our lives.

What was Jesus' response? He rebuked the wind and calmed the sea, saying: 'Peace! Be still!' Then Jesus asked the disciples: 'Why were you afraid? Have you still no faith?' Jesus spoke to His disciples but He could well have directed these words to us.

Job was a man of wealth and status. He had a good family and he had good health. In a short period of time, Job lost everything; his wealth, his family, and his health. He was ridiculed by everyone, except for a few friends and his wife. Job refused to curse God but he did complain to Him. He asked why God had allowed these calamities to befall him and did He not care that he, a faithful man, had to endure such hardship?

God answers Job harshly when He says: 'I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding.' God tells Job that he has no right to question Him or to ask the reasons for His actions. He tells Job that He laid out a plan when He created the world and that Job has no understanding of how his life and his predicaments fit into the plan.

In the end, Job's faith was rewarded. God blessed him and he regained everything that he had lost and more.

Usually, we cry out to God when our lives are overtaken by a storm. The circumstances of our lives threaten to overwhelm us and we are in a turmoil. Jesus used the following words to rebuke the storm and to calm the waves: 'Peace! Be still!'

Although He used those words to control the elements, He may well have spoken directly to us. Have we still no faith? We need to have faith and be at peace. 'Be still and know that I am God.' (Ps. 46). Jesus tells us that He has the power to calm the storms. Just as Job's previous life was restored and even improved, Jesus calmed the storm but the sea became dead calm. If we have faith, God has the power to reward us beyond our desires.

Often our faith in God is shaky; particularly when we experience trials in our lives. But this is because our thoughts of God are limited by our human intellect. At all times, we must remember that God is infinite. When we put our faith in God, the words of the psalmist will ring true:

He made the storm be still,
and the waves of the sea were hushed;
Then they were glad when it grew calm,
and He brought them to their desired haven.

When we are challenged by storms in our lives, we need to remember to awaken God who dwells within us. He will help us face our struggles and sufferings. He will say to us: 'Peace. Be still. Be not afraid. Have faith.'