

Pentecost 4 Year B (12 Ordinary Sunday) 21 June 2015

Readings: *Job 38:1-11, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41, Ps 107:1-3, 23-32*

Theme: The Storms of Life

"He said to them, 'why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?
In the name..

My dear friends the theme for our reflection this morning is the storms of life. To every living human being, these moments must come one day in one form or another.

Human beings are like boats in the river side. When the storm comes, as it must, the anchor holds them and gives them and those on board security. They are part of being human and part of living. Today, the question to all of us is this: where is your anchor? Is it secure?

The first reading from the book of Job is a passage we have heard many times in our lives as Christians. Satan was given permission by God to toss Job's around to see where his anchor lies. He has given him all that life could offer wealth, family, happiness and you name it. He had it all. He has been upright before God and man and for that he became an object of contention between God and the forces opposed to God. Would he still be obedient to God if things begin to go wrong for him? To test his faith in God, he had to go through series of disasters. When he thought he had reached his limit, he did not blaspheme. He rather questioned God to which the answer from God was prompt: Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Job had no answer to this and subsequent questions. Though his friends and all he held dear abandoned him, he persevered and God rewarded his faithfulness in the end.

In the second reading Paul writing to the Corinthians urges them to make use of the grace of God they have acquired. He reminds them of their duty as Christians and the over all implication of that. Paul goes on to talk about the things that weigh us down in life which makes the Christian life and faith difficult. There are times when sorrows and disappointments in life will want to weigh us down. There are at times when we tend to be in a situation where life does not seem to have meaning any more. These are external tribulations of life. For Paul then, Christian life not only means

spiritual suffering but also physical. In all these cases, the Christian will rely heavily on the help of God

The Gospel is a familiar story. Do I need to summarise it again. Probably there is no need. What do we need to know from the story and where do we go from there?

The boat that was caught in a storm with Jesus and his disciples is an appropriate symbol to represent us. Many a time storms toss us around like tiny cogs on the Ocean of life. A storm of life may arise because of family problems, ill health. A storm may arrive because of unexplainable discouragement or despair, or because we feel unappreciated or lonely. At times, the gusting wind of worries about the past and the angry waters of anxieties about the future can scare us. At other times a state of blackness can be frightening, like a thick blanket thrown over you, where suddenly all is dark. At such moments, when we feel at the bottom of a slimy pit, Jesus appeals to us to trust in his almighty power to subdue the storm and rescue us from the domination of darkness.

To voyage with Jesus was to voyage in peace even in a storm.

He gives calm in storm of sorrow. When sorrow comes as it must, he tells us of glory of the life to come.

He gives us peace when problems involve us in a tempest of doubt and tension and uncertainty.

He gives us peace in the storms of anxiety. The chief enemy of peace is worry, worry for ourselves, worry about the unknown future, worry about those we love. But Jesus speaks to us as a Father whose hand will never cause his child needless tears and of love beyond which neither we nor those we love can ever drift. In the storm of anxiety he brings us peace of the Love of God

So my dear friends, whether the storms we encounter be in our lives as individuals or as a Church, we will triumph over them provided we rely on God's power not our own.

Christ is our anchor and it is sure to hold tight in the storms of life.

Let us meditate on these today.