

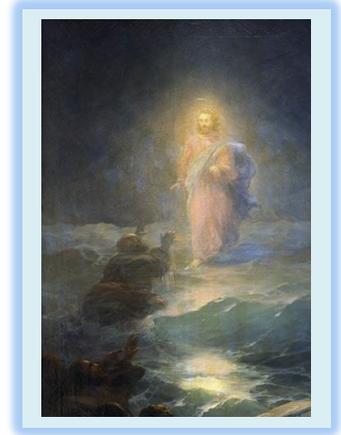
Jesus says, "Come."

*Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 9, 2020*

Readings: + 1KGS 19:9A + 11-13A + PS 85:9-14 + ROM 9:1-5 + MT 14:22-33

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As I write this reflection, the Weather Channel is making predictions about the Hurricane ISAIAS moving toward the Florida coast. My cousins and friends are right in its path. Two weeks ago, my other cousins were affected by Hurricane Hanna in the Gulf of Mexico. Besides hurricanes, it seems like we have had so many storms swirling around us, and all dangerous, for the past six months. Just think of what you have been through with worrying about Covid-19, ministries, family members losing jobs, losing friends and loved ones, not free to do life as we did before, worrying about the economy, government, aging, health and more.



All this leads to great stress and anxiety unless we can keep focused in prayer and meditation, reaching out to help others, and breathing deeply as we go about daily life.

Today's scripture is perfect for what we are experiencing. One of my favorite readings is the first one from 1 Kings. There were huge storms and earthquakes but that was not where God was speaking. Rather God spoke in the tiny whispering. Isn't that where we hear God calling?

For the Gospel, there have been many interpretations of the storm and what Jesus did. But we focus on Peter who asks Jesus if he could come to him. Jesus simply says, "Come" and Peter jumps out of the boat. Why? Was it fear or the strong desire to be with Jesus? I prefer to think that it was that desire to be with Jesus and so he set out bravely. Have you ever gone to the top of a mountain or a high building like the Empire State building? On the edge, people say, "don't look down!" I think that is what Peter did. When the wind was against him and the sea was rough, he panicked.

And so it is with us. During this time of stormy seas, we know that Jesus is with us in the boat. We stay the course!

Reflection

- + How have the storms swirling around us affected you?
- + What steadies you doing this time?
- + How do you help others to be centered on Jesus?