

Anglican Church of Freiburg  
Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2022  
Homily  
Where is Your Faith?  
Luke 8:22-25

One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A windstorm swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, "Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?"

When the oceans rise and thunders roar  
I will soar with You above the storm  
Father, You are king over the flood  
I will be still, know You are God

I will be still, know You are God  
I will be still, know You are God

This is what we sang today in preparation for the homily. Ask again- when the oceans rise and thunders roar can we truly say- I will be still, know You are God.

Luke 8:22-25 narrates for us the familiar story of the calming of the seas.

**Excitements of the Journey with Jesus.** Journey through the sea of Galilee could have been a routine affair for them, but this one was going to be special which they would remember for long. This was perhaps one of their toughest journeys wherein they saw the tumultuous sea almost taking their life. These was perhaps also their conversion experience. Being able to experience Christ better than ever before.

Does it require a storm in our lives to truly have a God encounter? Not an easy question and also not a question out of place in a generation where there is lesser and lesser interest in the God talk.

Take a look at the scene again. Jesus gets on into a boat with his disciples and then tells them "Let us go to the other side."

If we visit the scene today they would recreate the journey for us sans the storm in most cases. On the other side of the lake they would say today is the restaurant that gives you the Peter fish fry. But in this instance Jesus was headed towards Gennaserene where he heals a demoniac, heals a women with a haemorage who just touched his cloak and goes on to raise Jairus daughter saying Talitha Coumi.

Journeys with Jesus can be adventurous, Journeys with Jesus can be exciting, Journeys with Jesus can make you participants in the transformation of the life situations of others.

The invitation to the other shore saying Come Lets Go- could come anytime to you and me.

### **Windstorms in the Journey with Jesus**

Jesus being in the boat is no guarantee that there would be no storms on the way. The only guarantee is that Jesus would not leave us alone through the toughest patch.

How could Jesus sleep when the journey was bumpy. Just recall the story of a young boy who was confidently waiting in the airport for the boarding call. This elderly women did notice him but to her surprise he was her next seat traveler. After the take off the boy just snored his way in bliss into oblivion. However there came a storm and a bumpy air pocket stretch and the flight was wobbling. This lad would not bother. Fortunately the bumpy ride was not for long. Normalcy prevailed. When the lady noticed that boy had woken up, she asked him- were you not afraid when the ride became bumpy. He said- No. Why she asked. Because, he replied, my dad is the pilot and I am confident in him. Yes Jesus slept.

Through windstorms it is natural that we also think Is Jesus Sleeping?

Where is God when the sea turns turbulent

Where is God when the winds rage

Where is God when life becomes difficult

Yes the windstorm swept the waters. Yes the boat was filling with water.

Two images that some of us can relate with this morning

Windstorms- Yes the Emotional Turmoil. The Spiritual Storms. The raging inner struggle that no body else seem to understand. That is indeed the experience of several people around us.

Boat should normally be on the water and not water on the boat. But here the water was filling the boat and could mean disaster- in other words the boat could be on a sinking mode

Are we facing windstorms today  
DO you think the boat is on the brim of sinking  
Then this story is for us

### **The Crying Out for Help**

The disciples knew that Jesus was there with them but he was sleeping. They went to him, woke him up, shouting Master Master We are perishing. Repetitive Vocative as a Rhetoric Literary Devise could point at the intensity and urgency of the call. It emerges out of total helplessness. All others have failed and none other to turn to.

Yes they went to Him- They cried out to the right person at the right time. Sometimes we delay too much to turn to Christ and what could have been sorted very easily is made complicated.

Yes they woke him up. Jesus in the sleep mode. This could be the picture of many of our boats. There is no active engagement. It is like the mobile phone in the sleep mode or the aeroplane mode. Is it there? Yes. Can someone contact you? No.

Yes they Shouted "Master Master"- What else can one do in the moments of utter helplessness than turn to the Master of the storms and pray

Hide Me Now Under Your Wings

Cover me within your Mighty Hand

Yes they acknowledged: We are Perishing

The three steps of salvation is here. Realise that we are perishing. Realise that Christ is able to Save. Just cry Out Master Save Us.

Yes Jesus Can

Yes Jesus Will.

Sunil depicts the Jesus who is part of the storms in our lives in this beautiful picture. The Pandemic forced people to migrate and they walked long distances through railway tracks. One tragedy that we read of is the train running over a few people who did not anticipate the train. The agony and anguish of the fellow pilgrims is depicted in this picture. The wounded Jesus co-sojourning through the pain.

### **The Calming of the Sea**

There are no limits to the possibilities of God. No storm is too big for Christ. No wind too strong for him. No rain too tumultuous

Jesus Woke Up

Jesus rebuked the Wind and the Raging Waves

They ceased and there was calm

The prayer is simple

Calm me Lord as You calmed the storm,  
Still me Lord,  
keep me from harm.  
Let all the tumult within me cease  
Enfold me Lord,  
in Your peace  
Are we travelling through a storm. An emotional storm?  
A physical storm?  
A work space storm? Too Busy and Too Exhausting  
A home front storm? Concern of a child? Of a Partner?  
And the gospel is Jesus can calm any storm. If only you call out for help.

### **Where is your faith?**

There are occasions when you need it most you realise you misplaced it somewhere. The disciples had been in a journey with Jesus. They have seen the miraculous catch of fish. The raising of the son of the widow of Nain, the healing at the centurion's home., the healing of the person with leprosy and the paralytic. Yet their faith wavered at the storms. Jesus asks them a very important question.

If faith was a little bird with wings and you had a wonderful bird that was specially yours and someone comes to you and asks you today- Where is your faith?

What would be our response?

Right here in my heart!!!

O it was somewhere around!!!

O where is it? I never knew it flew away!!!

Matthew 8:26 the Synoptic parallel like in Mark 4:40 uses the phrase O ye of little faith!!!

Have you compared this with "Great is your faith"

The first was always pointed at those who claimed to be insiders while the later was always about those formally treated as "outsiders"- be it the Roman centurion (Matt 8:5-13) or the Canaanite woman (Matt 15:21-28)

### **They were amazed, afraid and asked- Who is This?**

This amazement with Christ encounters

This reverential awe at what he does in and around us

And constantly asking Who is This? He commands the winds and the waters and they obey.

Who is this Jesus- you talk about every day

Like Honey in the Rock

Sweet Honey in the Rock

O He Tastes Like Honey in the Rock

One of the greatest causality of Christianity today is that we have become too causal in our approach to God. The awe, the wonder, the reverence is missing somewhere

The more the love the more amazing our relationship with the Lord becomes. Being busy would never be an excuse for not having our morning and evening devotions because we prioritise our lives differently.

But, a storm and a calming of the storm- the disciples are amazed at their God encounter and God experience.

Our prayer as a church today is

Calm me Lord as You calmed the storm,

Still me Lord,

keep me from harm.

Let all the tumult within me cease

Enfold me Lord,

in Your peace

Christoph and Solveyg- Over to you.

Vinod Victor

20-02-2022