

EVERYDAY LIFE

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

"In the fourth watch . . . Jesus came to them, walking on the sea." Matthew 14:25 NAS

"When you feel helpless and at the mercy of your problem, Jesus will come."

My thoughts today consider the One who is **"on top of it all."**

A few years ago, Gayle and I, with another pastoral couple, were on a cruise from the West Coast through the Panama Canal to the East Coast. The second day at sea, our ship was caught right in the middle of a major hurricane off the Mexican coast. For 36 hours, no one was allowed outside on the decks because of the dangerous power of the winds and waves. Watching frightened people wearing their orange life vests after dinner did not make for a relaxing, carefree voyage during the hours of that storm.

There is something frightening about a bad storm and its destructive force, and something a bit more frightening about a storm at sea. Maybe it is because you are already **out of your natural element, and now somewhat helpless at the mercy of the wind and waves**. Imagine what the disciples felt. When men whose lives are lived on the sea are afraid, you know it is serious. See Matthew 14:22-34.

They were in the middle of a severe storm, in the dead of night (between 3:00 and 6:00 am), fearing for their lives and feeling all alone . . . until through the darkness Jesus came to their storm tossed boat, *"walking on the sea."* The thing that seemed to them **the greatest threat was the very thing upon which Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. Jesus was "on top of it all!"** Jesus is always on top of whatever the circumstance may be.

When you are in the middle of your problem and totally out of your comfort zone, you are either under the circumstance - and probably feeling overwhelmed and uncertain - or you need a way to get on top of it all. Only Jesus offers you the latter. *"When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to that Rock that is higher than I."* Psalm 61:2. In such times, **you need a vantage point** to see things as they are, and not as you fear. And **you need a safe refuge**, until the storm passes over. Jesus provides both perspective and protection. See Psalm 91:1-12.

And what did Jesus say to these, storm-tossed men? *"Take courage, I am here; do not be afraid."* Matthew 14: 27. Jesus would say the same to you today. Whatever your problem, however overwhelming your situation and frightening your circumstance, *"I am here; do not be afraid!"* Your problem can be the platform on which God can be seen, while He works on your behalf.

Read all the story of today's verse. **When Jesus is walking on the water, He will invite you to join Him, if you will.** Soon Peter was briefly walking on the same waves that frightened him before. And the story closes, as yours will, with the winds controlled and calmed, and everyone safely in the boat with Jesus. See Matthew 14:28-33. **When no one else can be there, Jesus will come. Nothing could keep Him away.**

My prayer for you is to know that Jesus will come. Watch for Him and welcome Him.

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