



In today's Gospel reading, the disciples are struggling against the waves that hit them and the gushes of wind lashing against their boat and Jesus comes walking on the sea, towards them.

St Mark's Gospel is very particular in mentioning a strangely overlooked statement: **"He meant to pass them by" (Mk 6: 48b)**

The disciples are struggling for life and are in deep danger. And does the Lord wish to just pass them by? The boat is to capsize and it's a terrible resistance against the forces of nature. And does the Lord just want to pass them by? Did He not see them? Or does He not care?

Well, this is where we introduce the aspect of the Lord having some "fun" with His children! In the boat, when the disciples saw Jesus intended to pass them by, they cried out in fear. And this prayer of fear and worry was heard by the Lord, and He responds.

The disciples reach out to Him in earnest prayer and a miracle is performed! The Lord seems to pass by, not because He is not interested in us. The Lord acts as if He is passing by, not because He does not care for us. It is rather just His way of making us to also reach out to Him in prayer

We are not to sit back and wait in passivity for God's help. We are to call out on Him, in prayer, in faith, in love! Our lives sometimes have to face the consequence of this "prank" or "acting" of the Lord. We struggle in the boats of our life, against dreadful storms of problems. We row hard with all our might, and sometimes feel that it's going to be the end of our life. We get frightened and are afraid that somehow the waves will have the better of ourselves. And the Lord, just "seems" to pass by.

Do you recognize the Lord's abiding presence with you?

When we cry out in deep anguish and fear, the Lord hears! Our anxiety and fears itself become a prayer in the Presence of the Lord! Is our life passing through deadly storms of faithlessness and isolation? Are the dreadful waves of hardships and miseries assaulting us? Does it seem that the Lord is "just passing by"? Lift up the sagging and weary spirits. The Lord is very much with us! Let's open our hearts and lives to Him...and hear Him say, **"Take courage, it is I... Do not be afraid!" (Mk 6:50)**

Life messages: 1) Let us approach Jesus with strong Faith in His ability and availability to calm the storms in our lives and in the life of the Church. Church history shows us how Jesus saved his Church from the storms of persecution in the first three centuries, from the storms of heresies in the fifth and sixth centuries, from the storms of moral degradation and the Protestant reformation movement in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and from the storms of clergy sex-abuse scandals in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

2) Let us ask Jesus to protect us when we face storms of strong temptations, storms of doubts about our religious beliefs, and storms of fear, anxiety, and worries in our personal lives. Experiencing Jesus' presence in our lives, let us confess our Faith in him and call out for his help and protection

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, may I never doubt your saving help and your ever-watchful presence, especially in times of adversity. Fortify my faith with courage and my hope with steady perseverance that I may never waver in placing all my trust in you who are my all.

Jesus, I Trust In You