



Homily by Founder - Fr. Ephraim

When God Seems Silent

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Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

We pray, but nothing seems to change. We ask for direction, yet the road remains unclear. We look for comfort, but the storm around us continues.

In today's Gospel, the disciples find themselves in exactly that kind of situation.

They are crossing the sea with Jesus when a violent storm suddenly rises. The wind becomes strong, the waves begin filling the boat, and fear takes over. Yet while all of this is happening, Jesus is asleep.

The disciples cry out:

"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

That question is not very different from the questions many people ask today.

"Lord, do you not see what I am going through?"

"Lord, do you not care about my family?"

"Lord, why have you not answered my prayer?"

"Lord, why is this problem still here?"

The disciples made one important mistake. They believed that because Jesus was silent, He was absent.

But Jesus was still in the boat.

That is the message we must remember whenever life becomes difficult: God's silence does not mean God's absence.

The Lord may not always act according to our timetable. He may not answer in the way we expect. But His presence remains with us.

Sometimes we want Jesus to remove every storm immediately. Yet there are moments when God allows us to pass through the storm because there are lessons we can only learn in difficult waters.

The storm showed the disciples how little they understood about Jesus. Before



that night, they had heard Him preach and watched Him perform miracles. But after He commanded the wind and the sea to be still, they asked:

"Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

Their storm became a revelation.

Some of the deepest things we will ever learn about God may come through the difficulties we would never have chosen for ourselves.

We discover that He is faithful when everything else fails.

We discover that His strength is greater than our weakness.

We discover that His peace can exist even before the storm disappears.

Jesus stood and said:

"Peace! Be still!"

Immediately, the wind ceased.

But notice what Jesus did next. He did not only speak to the storm. He also spoke to the disciples.

"Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

There are therefore two storms in this Gospel.

There is the storm around the disciples, and there is the storm inside them.

The external storm was made of wind and waves. The internal storm was made of fear, doubt and uncertainty.

Many times, we ask God to change what is happening around us, while God also wants to transform what is happening within us.

We pray:

"Lord, change my situation."

But God may also be saying:

"My child, allow Me to strengthen your faith."

We pray:

"Lord, remove this difficulty."

But the Lord may also be teaching us patience, courage, trust and perseverance.



Faith does not mean that storms will never come.

Faith means that when the storm comes, we know who is in the boat with us.

This is especially important in moments when our lives do not go according to plan.

A family may face financial difficulty.

A young person may be uncertain about the future.

A parent may be deeply worried about a child.

Someone may be carrying disappointment that nobody else knows about.

Another person may be asking God for an answer that seems delayed.

The Gospel today reminds us not to measure God's love by the absence of problems.

Jesus loved the disciples, yet the storm came.

Jesus was with the disciples, yet the waves entered the boat.

The presence of a storm does not mean the absence of God.

Sometimes the greatest miracle is not that God immediately removes the storm.

Sometimes the miracle is that He gives us the grace to remain faithful while we are passing through it.

There is another lesson.

The disciples eventually turned to Jesus.

Fear brought them to the point where they finally cried out to Him.

When we face difficulties, where do we turn first?

Do we immediately surrender to fear?

Do we become angry?

Do we complain to everyone before speaking to God?

Or do we bring the situation to Christ?

Prayer should not be the last thing we do when everything else has failed.

Prayer should be our first response.

We may not have control over every storm that enters our lives, but we can decide where we place our trust.



The same Jesus who was present in that boat is present with His people today.

He is present in His Word.

He is present in prayer.

He is present in the Eucharist.

He is present in the community of believers.

He is present even in those quiet moments when we cannot immediately feel His presence.

So when life becomes difficult, remember three things.

First, Jesus is still in the boat.

Second, the storm does not have the final word.

And third, faith means trusting Christ even before the waters become calm.

Perhaps today there is a storm in your own life.

Do not allow fear to convince you that God has abandoned you.

Bring your worries to Him.

Speak honestly to Him.

Remain faithful.

And remember that the One who commands the wind and the sea is greater than whatever you are facing.

May the Lord give us the grace to trust Him in peaceful days and in stormy days.

May He calm the fears within our hearts.

And may we always remember that wherever Christ is present, hope is never lost.

Amen.