

Mid-Week Devotional

Will the Real Miracle Please Wake Up!

Read Mark 5:35-41 “...waking Him they said, Do you not care that we are perishing” 5:38

After spending another hard day at preaching and teaching, Jesus got into a boat with His disciples to “go over to the other side.” Being exhausted, the Gospel according to Mark explains that Jesus found a place in the stern of the boat and was fast asleep on a cushion. Then suddenly



a storm came upon them with such winds and waves, that their boat began to be tossed and was quickly filling up with water. I have always found it interesting that when the things in our lives seem to be going bad, I mean really bad, our focus can be so easily turned. The disciples had been with Jesus for some time now; they had seen Him turn water into wine and heal the paralytic. They had seen Him heal the crowds at Galilee, cast out an evil spirit at Capernaum, and defend Himself against the attacks of the Pharisees for healing on the Sabbath. Yet when it was their turn to need the Savior’s help, they panicked.

“Do you not care that we are perishing!” they yelled at Him. It would seem that after all the miracles they had witnessed; all they could focus on was the storm.

I have had the opportunity to meet many devout and deeply spiritual people in my travels who always had an encouraging remark and a comforting hug to offer others who were experiencing the affects of a storm in their lives. Yet I am always amazed at how everything they know and have witnessed in their life quickly disappears when they themselves are in need. Jesus got up and rebuked the wind and the waves, the wind became still, and the waves ceased. Jesus gave them what they asked for, another miracle. Yet instead of jumping for joy, the Gospel tells us that they became very much afraid. Why are you afraid Jesus asks...have you so little faith? They still could not see the forest for the trees; the storm had consumed them and all they could focus on was the miracle Jesus had just performed. When in reality, the real miracle was stand right in front of them. While calming the seas and saving the boat from being swamped was indeed a miracle, the real miracle was that Jesus, God incarnate, was in the boat with them.

Sometimes we can get so preoccupied with trying to bail out our boats, trying desperately to keep them a float that we miss the opportunity that is before us. In every storm, there is an opportunity to get a glimpse of Jesus, and witness God’s power and love. However, unless we take our eyes off the storm, and focus on our Savior who is right there with us, we will miss it.

When you find yourself in the midst of the storm, and the waves are crashing in all around you, you have two choices. You can keep on bailing; hoping for your miracle or you can go to the back of the boat, lie down, and curl up in the arms of your Savior. Remember, you have already received the greatest miracle of all ...Jesus is right there in the boat with you...and when Jesus is in your boat, anything can happen, and usually does! Who knows, if your boat sinks, then you get the opportunity to walk on the water with Jesus. Now how cool is that!

Loving Father, help us to take our eyes off the storm long enough to find You in our boat, so that we may never miss the greatest miracle of all...that You are in the boat with us. In Jesus Name, Amen.