

Pentecost 5B (A Sermon by Rev. Ron Friedrich)  
*Gospel lesson - 5th Sunday after Pentecost:*

MARK 4:35-41

35. In the evening Jesus told HIS friends, "Let us go across the lake."

36. They left the group of people and entered the boat. Other boats also went with them.

37. A very strong wind pushed the waves into the boat, and the boat began to fill with water.

38. Jesus slept in the boat, in the back, with His head on a pillow. The friends woke-up Jesus and said, "Teacher, we will drown and die. You don't-care?!"

39. Jesus stood-up and ordered the wind and waves to stop, "Be-calm!" and immediately the sea was calm.

40. Then Jesus said to HIS friends, "Why are you afraid? You not-yet learn to trust ME?"

41. His friends were-surprised and said to one-another, "Who is Jesus? The wind and waves obey HIM."

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Where is Jesus now?

*[Wait for people to offer answers.]*

What is Jesus doing now?

*[Again wait for various answers.]*

In our story today, the 12 Disciples were where?

In a boat. And that boat was in a bad storm.

During that storm, Jesus was where?

Yes, Jesus was also in that boat with His Disciples.

And Jesus was in that boat, doing what?

Sleeping.

Yes, sleeping.

The storm was rough. Water splashed into the boat. A lot of water! The 12 Disciples were really afraid. Maybe the boat will sink, and they will all drown.

But was Jesus afraid?

Why not?

All that wind, and waves, and water splashing-in, didn't bother Jesus. He continued sleeping peacefully on a pillow. A wet pillow!

Jesus is the ruler over all the world. The Bible says that Jesus is true God, and Jesus, with the Father, and Holy Spirit, made everything. Jesus is the ruler over nature. Jesus is the ruler over the wind, and rain, and waves. The world can't hurt Jesus without His permission. Jesus is Boss. He has no reason for fear.

And if Jesus,  
     the king over all nature,  
         the king over the sea,  
             the king over the weather,

if Jesus is with the 12 Disciples in the boat,  
     they also have no reason for fear.

If Jesus is with the Disciples in the boat,  
     what can happen to them?  
         Nothing!

With Jesus, the Disciples are safe.

It-doesn't-matter a storm was around that boat.  
 That storm had no danger for those disciples?  
     Why?  
 Jesus was in the boat!

Your life is same-as that boat.

Today, What storm bothers your "boat"?

What trouble wrecks your life?

What danger is in-front-of you?

*[Wait a few seconds for people think]*

Where is Jesus now?

Is Jesus in your boat?

In life you will have trouble. Jesus promised that. You will have trouble.

If we continue without Him, we will be lost! The Disciples feared physical death. But if we die without Jesus, we will become lost forever in hell.

Jesus already died, for saving us from hell. On the cross, Jesus accepted all our guilt, all our sin. Jesus offered His life, that paid the price, for connecting us back to God again.

If Jesus is not-yet in your life, please ask Him to come in now.

And if you already trust Jesus Christ for forgiveness and eternal life, Jesus is in your "boat." Jesus is in your life, now!

And what is Jesus doing in your boat?

Sleeping? No!

The Bible says that Jesus continues to  
 watch over us,  
 protect us,  
 and lead us.

And it-doesn't-matter when storms come,  
 when trouble comes.

Jesus is with you in your boat.

Fear melts away,  
 and instead, Jesus gives peace.

This story shows Jesus as both true God and true man.

True God has control over nature, weather, etc.

True man is tired, and sleeps.

Remember Jesus, true God and true man, crucified on the cross.  
Remember His last sentence from the cross.

"Father, into Thy hands I give my spirit."

As true man, Jesus trusted His Father.

As true man, Jesus knew His Father will take-care of Him.

-- same as we can trust the Father,

-- same as our Father will take-care of us.

Remember in our story today, Jesus ordered the storm to stop, and waves become calm. Why? Did Jesus need to do that for saving the Disciples?

No.

Jesus saw their fear. Jesus had mercy for the Disciples.

Jesus heard their prayer, and gave them peace.

Jesus saw their weak faith, and He did something that increased their faith.

-- same as Jesus often as mercy on us.

He sees our fears.

He sees our weak faith.

He continues to show Himself powerful,  
and give us peace.

Amen