

## Walk with Jesus on the Water August 9, 2020

1 Kings 19: 9-13; Psalm 85; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14: 22-33

Holy Bible begins with the Creation story of which we are familiar with. “In the beginning God created heaven and earth” (Genesis 1:1). On the first day God created the heavens and earth and then created light to overcome the darkness. The earth was filled with water and on the second day God conquered the water or the sea and separated her from the land and conquered the seas.

To the ancient people, the seas represented chaos. Fishermen and sailors, then, as well as now, know the sudden turmoil caused by rough waters. Think back to the Asian tsunami that killed hundreds of thousands. Misfortunes happen now and then making us strong. When we are in the middle of the sea, the waves from the sea hit us all around and we need to conquer them for our safety. During His prayer, Jesus knew that his disciples were in danger and they needed help. He reaches them, walks on the water and calms the sea. Even today, in our efforts to overcome the chaos of our lives, Jesus is ready to reach us to pacify our life tempests and chaos. He is here to walk and control the chaos of our lives, and awaits for our prayers to reach us and answer us at any time. That is one of the messages of today’s Gospel reading.

No matter what chaos are there in the world and in our lives, Jesus conquers them for us. Life itself is chaotic. When our lives seem to go well in good health and wealth, some of our loved ones may be diagnosed with incurable illness as cancer at an unexpected time and might end up with the loss of our wealth and our dear ones. We never invite illness or tsunami to our lives but they reach us uninvited and we suffer from them.

Jesus conquers chaos, even those chaos which we ourselves invite to our lives. Many of us make bad choices and might go against the teachings of Jesus and natural laws. Some of us suffer the results of our own sins or the sins of others. For example, a person recognizes ones failures and repents of them and receive the sacrament of reconciliation. In spite of our reconciliations, guilt feeling might recur in us giving us sleepless nights.

It makes no difference for us if chaos are caused by us or others. Whatever they are, Jesus conquers them for us as he walks over the chaotic waters of the sea and our lives. As he invited Peter he is inviting us to walk with him on the water. He walks on the chaos of our lives, and teaches us to overcome them with faith in him. He strengthens us to walk on water. So, what will happen if we fail, if we blink, or if we sink like Peter? “Be not afraid,” says the Lord, “I am there to help you and reach you as you need me, to lift us out of the chaos of our lives”.

Jesus knows that we are saints, but not yet. He knows that we are weak in everything. Through his humility, Peter becomes strong in faith and Jesus was able to establish his Church on him. He transformed him to be the Rock of the Church. He takes us as we are and asks us to have the courage to place our faith in Him. He gives us the strength to join Him in conquering the chaos.

What are the chaos of your lives? Is it sickness, illness, old age or death? Is it chemical dependence? Is it some other addiction? Is it turmoil in your marriage or in your family? Is it your delinquent children or trouble from your neighbours? What ever those chaos are, remember, Jesus can conquer them with us. And nothing is impossible for us if He is with us. He walked on the waters and conquered the chaos, and He calls us to walk with Him to conquer the chaos of our lives! May God bless you! +++ Amen. Fr. Thomas