

God's Word for 'Me' Today

by Rev. Julia Schwert

For the past few Sundays, our Bishop has been preaching from the text found in Mark 11:12-24 and God has focused us on the fact that if He or Jesus spoke it, it **must come to pass!** We are to not only recognize, but speak to, those circumstances that have been keeping us from what God has said will be.

As I was reading our devotional, The Word for You Today, this past week, I realized God was still focusing us on the circumstances or the storms that come to hinder us. Jesus had gotten into a ship with the intent to go to the other side of the sea. His disciples had followed him and had also gotten into the ship. As we read what is recorded in Matthew 8:23-28, we find that Jesus was tired and went to sleep. Some of the disciples may also have fallen asleep; however, they were soon all awake and afraid because of a great storm that came up all at once. Now remember, they were familiar with storms on the sea since they were fishermen. But this particular storm was so great it made them afraid. It wasn't like any storm they had been in before, and they were so fearful for their lives that they woke up Jesus.

Their comments to Jesus came from their 'flesh man'. "What's wrong with you?" "How can you sleep through this storm?" "Don't you care that we are all going to die?" Jesus knew their purpose was to go to the other side of the sea and **nothing could stop them** because this voyage was ordained of God. Jesus was not concerned with the circumstances that the flesh saw. He knew that the Spirit was in control of this **and** every situation!

The fear the disciples had was real. How many times has fear tormented you? Fear does bring torment. Have you ever been tormented in your mind at night and couldn't wait until morning when you felt things would be better? Fear undermines your confidence in God. You begin to doubt what God has said in His Word. You begin to doubt what God told you to do. You forget what God has done for you in the past. You forget how good God has always been to you. Fear works best in darkness. This storm the disciples were in no doubt darkened the sky. The

light (Jesus) dispels the darkness and that is when fear has to flee. II Timothy 1:7 states: "God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Fear is a spirit. It is a spirit sent from our enemy – the devil. God didn't give us a "spirit of power" – NO! God **gave us power!** God **gave us a sound mind!**

As the disciples leaned on Jesus, they **regained** their **faith in** God. We must **continually** feed on God's Word so that our faith in God is strong and steadfast. Our faith in God reminds us that at the end of the book – when all is said and done, **we WIN!** It doesn't really matter what we have to go through to get to the end – we **are WINNERS now!** What race have you ever seen that they announce who the winner is before the race is over? Our race isn't over, but **GOD SAID we are winners!** In Romans 10:17 – "*So then faith cometh (continues to come) by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*" Faith took the disciples through the storm. Faith will take you **through any storm** you face.

I am taken back to an old song, "I Know Whom I Have Believed."

I know not why God's wondrous grace
To me He hath made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love
Redeemed me for His own.

Chorus:

But "I know whom I have believed, and am
persuaded that He is able to keep that which
I've committed unto Him against that day."

I know not how this saving faith
To me He did impart,
Nor how believing in His Word
Wrought peace within my heart.

I know not how the Spirit moves,
Convincing men of sin,
Revealing Jesus thro' the Word,
Creating faith in Him.

I know not what of good or ill
May be reserved for me,
Of weary ways or golden days,
Before His face I see.

I know not when my Lord may come,
At night or noon-day fair,
Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him,
Or "meet Him in the air."

Now, that's faith in God! No matter what – **God is God!**