



In the first reading this week, we hear God challenging Job to consider their respective roles in creation. I once heard this chapter of Job (Ch. 38) compared with a parent trying to lay down the law as they ask their child “who pays for food around here?” or “who puts clothes on your back?” While this chapter does have similar sayings like “who measured the size of the earth?” or “Who shut within doors the sea?” it’s ultimately about something far grander than establishing that God is in charge and Job should stop questioning Him. It’s about the fact that God knows what He’s doing, and He always wants what is best for us. Even when it is difficult for us to understand why God would do something that seems strange to us, or allow some evil to happen, the message that He has for Job is that He never does anything arbitrarily or at random, but rather He has ordered the world for our good.

This is a beautiful idea to talk about, but it can be very difficult to believe when our lives take a sudden turn for the worse. The disciples in this week’s gospel were more than willing to get into the boat with Jesus. Many of them were fishermen, this was something familiar and safe to them. They had no reason to suspect it would be dangerous, until the storm came in the night. But once the ship started to fill with water, that faith in Jesus became a lot more difficult. Sure, they had been with Him for a while by this point, but they didn’t expect that their travels would end with a shipwreck. They panicked, but even in their fear they still rushed to Jesus. They trusted that He *could* do something to help them, they just doubted that He *would* do something without their waking Him up.

After Jesus calms the storm, he asks the disciples: “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?” It can be easy to look at the disciples and wonder how they could have lacked faith in Jesus. After all, by this point in the Gospel of Mark they had already seen Him teaching with authority, casting out demons, and healing countless people. Despite all of these things, they still doubted Him at some level. This just goes to show how difficult it can be to have complete faith in God. If the disciples struggled to trust in Jesus completely, then we certainly will too. And this is okay, as long as we continue to turn to God in our struggles and ask him for assistance. We can turn to him with any troubles or trials we may face, knowing that He wants what is truly good for us. Even if we are struggling with our faith in Him, we can still turn towards Christ and say “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (cf. Mark 9:24)

The reason we can always turn to Christ like this lies in the answer to the disciples’ final question: “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?” He is the one who shut the sea within doors; He is the one who made the clouds and darkness as a garment for the sea; He is the one who set limits for the sea and its waves; He is the one who made everything in creation, both in heaven and on earth, because He wants to share His incredible love. Just as He protected and cared for the disciples in the midst of a storm, He continues to protect and care for us today, calling us to trust in Him more completely.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ANGELS

Are you interested in Angels? Later this summer our seminarian, Eric Ouellette, will be giving a series of presentations on the Angels: what they are, why they matter, and their role in God’s creation. We will look at what both Scripture and various saints and theologians have said about the angels and talk about why they are a serious part of our faith, not an outdated superstition. If this is something that interests you, mark your calendars for July 12th, 19th, & 26th at 7:00PM. The July 12th teaching will be in the Church. July 19th and 26th will be in the School. This is open to everyone, so invite your friends!