

June 25, 2024

Homily Notes of Rev. J. Victor Gournas

The Gospel of Mark, 4:35-41

-Many of us enjoy the story of Jesus asleep in the boat amidst the stormy sea.

-I remember being in a boat in the middle of a storm with three water spouts about a mile away while fishing in The Gulf of Mexico/ Not fun at all.

-The point of this story is simply: Jesus is Lord! Jesus confronts and conquers all things / And to reveal both the power and Divinity of Jesus Christ / He is Lord over all Creation / Over all things / Visible and Invisible.

Throughout his public life," the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "...He demonstrated His divine sovereignty by works of power over nature, illnesses, demons, death and sin" (par 447).

-The boat represents:

A Universal Reading: (The Church)

A Particular Reading: (Our life).

The message / Even if it appears Jesus is asleep / Remember HE IS ALWAYS IN THE BOAT / We come across many definitions of Faith : But FAITH is to trust in the Lord: Always.

-So what do we do when it seems like Jesus is asleep?

-In this life we will have storms / Will we get angry when Jesus appears asleep?

-During storms when we acknowledge Jesus is in the boat with us (That's when we're strong)!

-Perhaps He appears asleep because the storm isn't so bad:

-Or He wants us to have patience, and In our weakness to trust in Him / Jesus says: "I AM YOUR STRENGTH FOR THIS TOO SHALL PASS!"

The storms and crosses will always pass / They are temporary.

-But eternity is forever.

-Remember: God will always bring about a greater good / Always!

-We should ask right now: Is Jesus Lord over all areas of my life? / Will I trust and be patient in the very difficult and confusing moments of life?

-Origen, a Catholic Bible Commentator from the 2nd and 3rd century(s) wrote:

*“For as many as are in the little ship of faith are sailing with the Lord; as many as are in the bark of the holy church will voyage with the Lord across this wave-tossed life; though the Lord himself may sleep in holy quiet, he is but watching your patience and endurance: looking forward to the repentance, and to the conversion of those who have sinned. Come then to him eagerly, instant in prayer.”*

-There are different types of sleep / We can be restless / Or we can sleep restful and well / Jesus' sleep is not of a restless sleep / But a sleep of one perfectly at peace / Of One who rests in complete security of the Father / Even in a storm / That is the FAITH Jesus is trying to teach us.

-Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning how to dance in the rain.  
AMEN

Vivat Jesus,

Father Vic Gournas