



## Reflection by Hillarie Griggs

**Fourth Sunday after Trinity  
Mark 4:35-End  
23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**

After a day of teaching about the Kingdom of God Jesus sets out, with his disciples, to cross the Sea of Galilee to the other side and at some point a storm suddenly blows up. This was not unusual for it is a body of water surrounded by hills and is also about 200m below sea level. It is this topography, when there is a sudden change in wind direction, that makes it prone to sudden, violent storms even on bright, sunny days. The storm that blew up that day must have been particularly severe because the experienced fishermen among the disciples thought they would perish.

Many of the storms that face us in life – physically, emotionally, and spiritually – are like the sudden storms on the Sea of Galilee. One minute, life is going along reasonably calmly and even routinely. Then the next minute, quite suddenly and out of the blue, something happens which throws our life into complete and utter chaos.

During stormy times, when we feel overwhelmed by a situation, it is very easy to be like the disciples and to cry out in fear, in doubt and in the belief that God has abandoned us. Jesus never promised us that we will never see any storms in our life, but what He did promise is that He will be with us in those storms. He will never leave us alone in the midst of trouble. We need to remember that Jesus was in the boat with his disciples. He may have been sleeping but they were able to wake Him up. Sometimes in the midst of life's storms, we can forget to “wake up” Jesus. In our busyness of trying to solve our problems we forget to pray. We need to shout out to God in our anger and fear. He is not far away.

At the end of this passage, when calm has been restored, Jesus asks the disciples, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” Even from their privileged position of hearing Jesus’ teaching first hand they still had little faith in who He was. They were more afraid of the power of the storm than having confidence in the power of God. Like the disciples, we must consider whether we will respond to the storms in our lives with faith in God or with fear for the situations we find ourselves in. We are asked when are you going to have real faith in Him and confidence that He is beside you in all of your life not just the good times.

But their fear turned to awe and they asked “Who then is this?” Their answer is not given allowing us time to think of our own response to this question. If we look at the disciples, they stayed with Jesus and became people of faith, fully confident in the power of God even prepared to go out into the world. We too need to continue to walk, talk and listen with God throughout our lives. To continually build our faith through our daily prayers, bible reading, and worship.

This closing blessing from our Celtic Morning Prayer reminds us that we will see storms but asks for protection for each and every one of us:

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.  
May He guide you through the wilderness,  
***protect you through the storm.***  
May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.  
May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

