

12 Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

When I was a teen-ager, I was no different than any other adolescent, even today. I couldn't wait to move out of my Parent' house, and be on my own, so that NOBODY else could tell me what to do. Maybe I even had it a little worse than most others, because I am the youngest of 12 children, so not only did Mom and Dad control my life, but as you know, stuff rolls down-hill, so I had 11 siblings picking on me as well. The only one I had to boss around was the poor Dog, and quite frankly, Trixie wasn't' really that obedient.

As humans, we have free will, and we have a tendency to not like others telling us what to do. That's a sign of control and power over us.

And in today's readings it seems that even the elements like to cut loose- out of control once in a while. And while we humans can control many things.... The elements, the wind, the rain, the Sea, are some things that are just too large for even US to control.

But in the first reading from Job, God tells us that **He**, the almighty creator was the one who told the Sea at the beginning, This is your limit. You shall come no farther. It seems that God does have control.

And today's responsorial psalm, psalm 107, tells about a storm wind, which tossed the waves of the Sea. We live close enough to the Coast, that we know how helpless man is against such a Tempest. And so, the ancient sailors cried to the lord in their distress. And the Mighty God heard them in their plight, and hushed the storm to a gentle breeze, and the billows of the Sea..... were stilled.

The sailors were guided to their desired haven, and gave thanks to the Lord, For only God, could have done such a deed.

And so.... In the Gospel, we have a similar situation. A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat so that it was already filling up. It sounds a lot like the storm in the psalm. I'm sure the Apostles were terrified.

And what is Jesus doing?.....

He's sleeping on a cushion in the stern.

Excuse Me!!! The boat is about to sink... and Jesus is sleeping!

Well, of course they wake him, "Hey, don't you CARE that we are perishing?" and they probably added, "Grab a bucket--- start bailing water." I don't really think the disciples were expecting more than a HUMAN effort to help fight against the natural elements.

But.... What does Jesus do? He rebukes the Sea, He says, "Quiet! Be still."

And Guess What? The elements listen to him.—The wind ceases, and there is a great CALM on the water.

Can you imagine? I mean, really,.... What are the Disciples thinking at this point? They were hoping Jesus would bail water, and instead he quiets the whole storm. He controls the elements. I mean, excuse me, isn't that something that only GOD can do?

Wait a minute..... If only **God** can calm a storm..... And Jesus just calmed this storm..... That makes Jesus.....

But..... NO, that's just TOO MUCH to believe. After all, he's just a guy..... But it does make them start wondering just **WHO IS THIS GUY?**

Well, St. Paul tells us. He IS the ONE who died for all; died and was raised, so that we no longer regard anyone according to the flesh. Even the disciples who knew him in the flesh, now know that He is the Risen ONE; The New creation we are baptized into. HE IS GOD! That's who this guy is.

And... Yes. The wind and sea listen to God. He can tell them what to do.

And the next time we find ourselves in a storm, as hard as it may be, maybe we too, should listen to God.

Maybe He's telling us the same thing Jesus told the Seas----The same thing God says in Psalm 4----Be Still! And know that I AM GOD!

And even if we have moved out of our parent house... Even if we own the house and have 12 kids of our own, (that we can't wait to get out of the house...) Remember... We're NOT really in charge. But we're in good hands.

Trust that GOD IS IN Control.