

E-DEVOTION FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

As I sat down to write this devotional for this day, I was at a loss. I had no words. So, I did what I often do when I find myself in that state, I opened my Bible and there it was... Matthew 8:23-26:

"Jesus got into a boat, and his disciples went with him. Suddenly a fierce storm hit the lake, and the boat was in danger of sinking. Jesus was asleep... the disciples woke him saying, 'Save us Lord! We are about to die!' Jesus answered them, 'What little faith you have!' Then he got up and ordered the winds and the waves to stop, and there was great calm."

It feels like we are in the middle of a great storm. Many of us have faced fierce storms before in life. We just want to WAKE UP find the winds have died down and the waves are calm... smooth sailing.... straight ahead.

I pray that day is coming. I hope so. What will it take? The message comes to us clearly in verse 26... "What little faith you have." My faith has been shaken more than once in this lifetime and I would suppose yours has, as well. Faith in fellow humans, faith in institutions, faith in the church, faith in our nation. But the one thing that has always held true is that there is a Presence with us in these storms of life that has the power to 'calm' the waters.

This is the day the Lord has made. It is the day to shore up our faith. It is the day to turn to the Almighty God and ask for what it is we, each one, can do to calm this storm. Because I really believe we have the power within us to do just that. We are the People of God; we bear His Holy Name... settle down in the boat! Be a calming influence in this lifetime. Good Lord, we surely need it.

And wear a mask, wash your hands, fold them, and bow your heads. Ask for guidance to help calm these waters. Let's get this storm behind us.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, we are in such dire need of your calming presence. Open our hearts and our minds to do what it is that You would have us do. Give strength to those who serve... who work towards healing. We pray especially for our doctors, our nurses, our police, our firefighters, our leaders. Let the storms cease... calm these seas." Amen. In Jesus' Name. Amen.