

JESUS CALMS YOUR FEARS

Matthew 14:27 “. . . Jesus spoke to them (His disciples), saying, ‘Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.’”

“It is a ghost!” That is what the Jesus’ disciples thought. They were in a boat on the Sea of Galilee battling a storm. Some of them were seasoned fishermen knowing how to sail in a storm, so this one must have been severe. In the midst of the violent storm, they saw a figure walking on the water toward them. “It is a ghost, they cried out in fear.” (Matthew 14:26)

The figure walking on the water toward them was not a ghost. It was Jesus. Jesus yelled out to His disciples, “It is I! Do not be afraid.” Jesus calmed the storm. His disciples were saved.

Some refer to these miraculous instances as “stories.” There are two kinds of stories. One kind is fiction. Fiction is not true. It is written or spoken by a person with an imaginative mind. The other kind of story is non-fiction. The content of the story truly happened. Matthew 14:26 is non-fiction. It happened. There was a storm. The disciples feared their boat was going to swamp and they would die. Jesus said to them, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

Are there ghosts in your life? Ghosts do not have to be in the shape of a human being or some Halloween scary figure. They can be anything or anyone who make you afraid. These ghosts come in different forms, shapes and sizes. What is a ghost for one of you is not for another. You know the ghosts that haunt you.

Jesus said to His disciples and He says to you today, “Take heart; it is I! Do not be afraid.” Think of the source of these words. Jesus, true God and true man speaks these words to you. “It is I” is the one who walked on the Sea in the teeth of a terrible storm, caused Peter to walk on the water with Him and finally calmed the storm and saved the lives of His disciples. “It is I” is all you need to know. “It is I” is all you need to hear. Jesus says these words to you through your baptism, at the Communion Table and from the Holy Scriptures. “Take heart,” Jesus says. “It is I,” Jesus says. Jesus says, I am with you always so “do not be afraid.”

Prayer: Dear Jesus, from time to time I face storms and ghosts in my life as did Your disciples. Come, grant me faith and trust in You to calm my storms and remove my ghosts. That I not be afraid, send Your Spirit to give me faith to call upon you and trust You for all I need. In Your holy name. Amen.

Jesus, Savior, pilot me Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll, Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee. Jesus, Savior pilot me.

As a mother stills her child, Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boistr'rous waves obey Thy will When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest, Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."
(LSB 715)