Corona Virus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #7

A Test of Faith

Luke 8:22-25 (NASB) 22 “Now on one of those days Jesus and His disciples got into a boat, and He said to them, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they launched out. 23 But as they were sailing along He fell asleep; and a fierce gale of wind descended on the lake, and they began to be swamped and to be in danger. 24 They came to Jesus and woke Him up, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And He got up and rebuked the wind and the surging waves, and they stopped, and it became calm. 25 And He said to them, "Where is your faith?" They were fearful and amazed, saying to one another, "Who then is this, that He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him?"

Let’s go back to Luke’s Gospel where we have the situation with the disciples fearful of the storm and Jesus is sleeping peacefully in the back of the boat. The question Jesus has for His disciples is compelling in verse twenty-five. “Where Is Your Faith”.

That question by our Lord was a very penetrating question because it got to the heart of each of the men. In effect, the Lord was challenging them about what they really believed. Because He knew, it’s one thing to talk about having faith in God and all He is and truly believe. But it is another thing, to apply faith, to make it real.

In this scenario the Lord is giving the disciples a situation where their faith must be strong. It must be what sustains them in this potential doom. But instead, the disciples focus on what is happening around them, instead of Who is with them in the boat.

The Lord had promised them that they would see great things and accomplish great things, so this was not the end for them. (Matt 4:19, John 15:16) This was only the beginning. Yet the storm caused them to lose faith in what God had promised.

James, Jesus half-brother, said James 2:14-18 (NASB) 14 “What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself”. And earlier James wrote James 1:2-4 (NASB) 2 “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing”.
The disciples needed that test in the boat on that day, at that moment, because the Lord was growing their faith. And by growing their faith they could and would endure the things that were coming so they would remain strong in their witness for Him. They needed to be the examples because God has uniquely chosen them to tell the world that He is God.
Beloved, often things come to us in this life to challenge our faith. This virus is nothing more than that. God is using it for His own purposes, but also to test your faith. So, you and I have a choice to make. We can either panic because the storm is too big, or we can remember Who has called us to serve Him or Who is in the boat with us, so to speak. We have been chosen by God to be His witnesses. (1 Peter 2:5) We are to be the examples of faith, the examples of trust and hope in challenging times and situations. If we fail in faith now, what hope does the world have?
Right now, God is asking each of us, “Where is your faith”? Is it in what you can see and what you have worked so hard to get? Is it in what you are afraid to give up or lose? Ask yourself, where is my faith? I pray that it will be secure in the Rock of Christ. The One who will bring us to paradise, no matter what we face here.