

Peace! Be still!

These words of JC that calm the seas and set the disciples into chaos.

- Story reinforces Jesus as the embodied Son of God
- Able to manipulate nature
- Never in doubt

Peace! Be Still!

The words we need to here as much today just as the disciples needed to hear then when they were in despair. Before I dive into the significance of these words:

- Quick update on my ministry
- Dive into Job – and see how God responds to the language of suffering and questioning God's justice
- Dissect the Gospel of Mark – where I hope some of my excitement for the Gospel rubs off – and we focus in on today's word of the day – faith!

Update on my role:

- PT over summer helping while Manny is on sabbatical
- Continuing on with ToT into the fall – new format this week!
- Developing the Center for Spiritual Nourishment (CSN)
- Sunday for the next school year – roaming

Job:

- For anyone who has ever questioned God, or whose faith has been shaken, read and re-read Job
- So relevant for the CSN
 - Plug Bible Project video
 - Review how we got here
- There is no great solution or words of wisdom that make it clear exactly what the point is – rather, we are left to wrestle, and to consider God beyond our comprehension, able to take our best shot, and willing to provide us perspective
- Little is known about who wrote Job or if any of it is real. It is in the Hebrew Bible, the Greek's added some text and added some patriarchal language. Muslims call Job a prophet and have a few more elements in the Quran.
- What we do know is it is a great book of a person publicly wrestling with their faith.
- And faith is the thread that weaves our 3 Scripture readings together.

In Corinthians, Paul puts words to the turbulence described in our story with Jesus and the disciples on stormy seas – “we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.”

But in Mark – we hear a short story that encapsulates the essence of our faith journey

- Is this short story we here Jesus, seemingly frustrated, that after all the signs, they still did not have faith.
- What is faith? Not the same as trust
 - Preserve it for the divine – within ourselves and how we use it in the world
 - Then our community can act in faith in relation to the divine
- Describe the scene at the time of Mark's writing -
URGENCY – 'immediately' 41 times
 - Scrolls passed, subversive, underground, the Word is spreading
- The characters
 - Narrator
 - Jesus
 - Authorities
 - Disciples
 - The Crowds
- It's a narrative – we fill in the blanks! That's the beauty.
 - Was Jesus really sleeping?
 - What do you think Jesus wanted the disciples to do?
- So what does it mean to us Peace! Be Still!
 - Advice that fits every situation in our lives

- When there is chaos around us, as in the Gospel, call on the Lord
- Nirvana is when the mind, body and spirit are in synch
 - We experience synchronicities
 - We can get 'in the zone'
 - This is when we can let our minds go wild with ideas
 - This is also when we need to call on the Lord
 - Especially then, we need Peace! And to Be Still!
 - Innovation that comes from love, is superior to that which we think up
- Challenge: 10% tithe to true Peace! Truly being still!
- That's the Good News – God is ever-present – and all we need to do is to be faithful – to call upon the Lord in good times and bad
- As we go into the world to love and serve the Lord, remember Jesus's command: Peace! Be still!