

12th SUNDAY YEAR B 2021 REFLECTIONS:

THE STORMS.

It is not a surprise to see so many people especially this summer period withdrawing and going to the beaches. Apart from relaxing, the water has all the characteristics of human behavior, sometimes ***it's rough, annoyed, angry, cool, and sometimes calm.*** Are we not like this as human beings? Then the sea gives us ***wonder, fascination, curiosity, fear, thrills, and challenge.*** We can learn a lot from the behavior of the sea. It expresses the mysterious force of nature.

The account in today's Gospel expresses a great deal of the power of Jesus as opposed to that nature and weather disturbance. The church has faced so many storms over the centuries, both from within and without. Spiritual, financial, doctrinal, social, and even moral, yet it has withstood all these. Remember the words of Jesus to Peter, "***The forces of the world will not overcome it. Behold I am with you until the end of time.***" Is He not showing his ***presence in this Gospel? Don't we have His Presence in the storms we face daily?*** What a consolation from today's teaching to know that he is calming the storms within us. We, too, have personal storms that we face in our lives as human beings. ***The sea of matrimony, the storms of relationships, financial, material, and spiritual conflicts,*** these we experience from outside, yet we too have internal storms from within ***anxieties, stress, depression, and lose of loved ones.*** All these are part and parcel of our lives as human beings. We need a lot of calmness to weather the storms and to enable us to face them courageously.

We are reminded in the first reading from Job, storms have limits, and they can be intense in life, yet God is there for us when we turn to him. Job turned to him despite what was happening in his life with the many storms he faced. He will give us strength and tolerance. What we need is ***trust.*** Storms will make us change our life, reflect and be focused.

Note the fact it can be dangerous to make decisions, change direction, rearrange our life during the crisis of a storm in our lives. It is time to reflect and turn to Jesus. Wake him in prayer. It is time to be near the Lord. Storms will make us clean up our lives. They can make us strong if we approach them from a positive point of view. We learn from the apostles that they took the right direction from the Lord, "**Master don't you care? We are lost!**" As we cross over to the other side of life's storms and gales and doubts, our solution is in Jesus. If we wake Him up and tell him what is affecting us, He will be present to us. Hence, we turn to him in prayer always. He will cool storms and bring **CALMNESS TO OUR LIVES.**

NEAR THE LORD THERE IS CALMNESS LET US GO TO HIM TODAY.