

**FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY YEAR A-2023.**

**THE STORMS:DO NOT BE AFRAID:**

In life we sometimes encounter very stormy weather of one kind or another that it makes us loose balance and threatens our **peace,security and even life itself**.when these storms faces us our only refuge is God,the only one who can calm the situation and **restore the troubled life thus bringing peace and balance again.Hence we need to look for him in worship and prayer.**

This is the case we are facing with the prophet Elijah in our first reading(1kg 19:9.11-13).the **dramatic religious contest of Baals prophets Elijah**,after defeating the false prophets Queen Jezebel vowed to deal with him,hence he had to escape.He faced the storm of his life and went into hiding seeking refuge of God in Mt.Horeb.The storm of earthquakes,strong wind and fire all manifested there like in Moses time yet God was not found in those manifestations,he was in that **cool calm breeze**.Dont we all need to withdraw into that **chapel,church,that inner room that inner self and converse with our God**.He is not going to be found in all the chaos in our world,we need that cool moment in life away from the storms of life and seek the way forward after storms of **pending divorce,marriage conflict,broken relationship,midlife crisis of vocation,loosing job,relocating from one parish to another after the division of certain Diocese,crisis in sickness** which drained all the finances, **misunderstanding,cheating partner**.We need to turn to God not only these moments of crisis but always.

In the gospel,Jesus faces and calms different storms.The situation was immediatly after feeding the five thousand,the crowd became wild and wanted to make him their political ruler by force this was like a storm he had to calm himself hence he obliged the apostles to get into the boat and cross to the other side! that he may send the crowd away.The crowd had seen his **care,compassion and love.He had given them spiritual food as well as feeding them with food hence the right leader**.Not like some leaders in third world countries,instigating the

common person for their own selfish ends, all claiming people want them to lead!

After dispatching the crowd he went to the mountain to pray as it were his tendency. He followed his apostles afterwards walking on the waters. Seeing this and the roughness of waves in the sea, they became scared. The boat was being tossed by the waves. Jesus in turn told them

***courage do not be afraid am the the one (mt.14:27). what a consolation for these scared faithless-apostles even after witnessing the power he had manifested in feeding the five thousand. They were still not believing. This is seen clearly from Peter if you are the one Lord tell me to come walking on the water(29). the poor jerry like faith peter doubted and started sinking but the Lord stretched his hand to hold him after that there was calmness in the sea. It was too a point of turn for the apostles and they proclaimed the person of Jesus truly you are the son of God(33)*** The point is so clear Jesus enter into **all our life's situations and responds appropriately according to our needs of the moment.** There only requirements on our part is **trust and confidence.** Jesus responds to our immediate situation and stretches his hand to **calm the storms in us.**

The sea became calm **near Jesus there is calmness. let us take all our doubt, stress and need to him. He is stretching his hand to hold us before we sink.**

When our boats of life are being **threatened, tossed and sinking** in the strong waves of this violent world in our life through a **stress, anxieties, Fear** of even ever getting to the shore of tomorrow even tempted to **give up LIFE and loose HOPE** Jesus is telling **YOU** today **COURAGE DO NOT BE AFRAID.**

