

Lent devotions

READ:

Mark 4:21-41 (Click to open link.)

REFLECT:

I was in a hurricane once. The fairly gentle, Category 1 variety. It was still scary stuff. The one hundred mile per hour winds beat upon the hotel I was staying. The rain was relentless. In the middle of the day, it was as dark as midnight. I went outside a few times. I just wanted to see what it was like. It was windy, rainy, and dark.

I've seen a tornado. I have experienced a total eclipse. But nothing like this: the eye passed through the area I was in. It was surreal. The storm stopped. Part of the sky opened—if only for ten minutes or so.

The disciples and Jesus were on a boat at night travelling from place to place. A huge storm came up and put the boat into difficulty. The disciples were afraid and thought this might be the end. They woke Jesus up and asked him if he even cared about them. At that moment, he calmed the wind and the waves. Not like my ten-minute reprieve from the hurricane, but a permanent break.

When the disciples realized the presence of Jesus with them the storm became a calm. Once they knew he was present and fearless, peace entered their hearts. To voyage with Jesus was and is to voyage in peace—even in a storm. It is not something that happened once; it is something which still happens and which can happen for us. In the presence of Jesus we can have peace even in the wildest storms of life.

RESPOND:

Write down some storms you have faced or are facing and then respond to the following questions:

Did you feel Jesus present with you? If so, what effect did this have?
How would more of Jesus' presence have helped you in your storm?

Next time a storm in life comes your way (or if you are in one now), what are some things you can do to experience peace during the storms.