

Job 38:1, 8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:14-17; Mark 4:35-41

Drama, fear, and questions are all part of this weekend's Gospel. A storm is raging on the Sea of Galilee; the disciples are deathly afraid that the boat they are in will sink; Jesus is asleep in the boat. Then four questions come hurling out at us: "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" Jesus responds with His own two questions: "Why are you terrified?" and "Do you not have faith?" Then, after He calms the wind and the sea, comes the final question of the disciples: "Who then is this whom even the wind and sea obey?" That is a lot of questioning in just six verses of the Gospel! But they lead us to some important answers. Jesus is with the disciples from the beginning of the crossing of the sea; He cares profoundly about them. The disciples are "terrified" because they have forgotten this. They even have Jesus in the boat with them. How much more safety do they need? Then, when Jesus asks what seems to be a harsh question about why the disciples do not have faith, perhaps He is giving them the chance to reflect on what they really DO believe about Him and forget the storm for a moment. Finally, at the end of this scene, the disciples ask a very important question that should resonate with all of us: "Who is this?" In the end, each of us must ask that question for ourselves: Who is Jesus for me? This leads to other questions: What do I believe about him? How much do I trust Him? Do I want to get to know Him more deeply? So, the four questions of the Gospel are ultimately questions about faith. Our faith. It is our faith that gives us the opportunity to ask significant questions, listen to Our Lord's answers, and become more and more what those in the boat were: His disciples.

