

# Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



## Homily Helps and Petitions for the 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Cycle B (June 23, 2024)

### Homily Helps

#### † Scripture Passages to Note:

**Mark 4:** Let us go to the other shore . . . Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not have faith?”

#### † Comments for the Day:

*Why are you without hope? Have you still no faith?* These two questions that Mark has Jesus posing to the disciples are not questions of the past but of us today. We find ourselves in the midst of many metaphorical storms in the church, in society, and throughout the world. For some, the crises are so overwhelming that one feels hopeless.

The gospel, short as it is, has much to instruct us. The scene begins with a simple command from Jesus: *Let us go to the other shore.* What feelings did the disciples have when they heard this command? They knew what was on the *other shore* – the pagan territory of the Decapolis that harbored a hostility toward their religion and beliefs.

Suddenly, a strong storm slammed against the sails of their boat. Water flowed over the sides, and the disciples feared they were going to drown. This is a metaphor for what they were feeling in their hearts as they were told to go to the *other shore*. Did they have the courage and stamina to stand up to the hostility of the territory? Would their mission even survive?

Awakened by their panic of facing the end, Jesus intervenes. The storm calms down, and the lake becomes quiet again. First, the disciples were terrified of the storm, and now, they are terrified of Jesus. They began to question his identity. Being with Jesus, anything is possible.

We find ourselves in the middle of a “heavy storm,” literally and metaphorically, and fear begins to grip our minds and hearts. These storms create conditions for violence and unrest. We are forced into strange territories, and we fear the future. We don’t take risks to bring about change, especially in our lifestyles. We think it safer to deny the reality of the storm! Pope Francis writes in *Laudato Si*, *So our concern cannot be limited merely to the threat of extreme weather events, but must also extend to the catastrophic consequences of social unrest. Obsession with a consumerist lifestyle, above all when few people are capable of maintaining it, can only lead to violence and mutual destruction* (204). He continues, *Today, in a word, “the issue of environmental degradation challenges us to examine our lifestyle”* (206).

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

We have the option to go to the *other shore*. Jesus can surprise us. With the Risen Christ, we can meet the challenge, overcome fear, and live a life of hope that others in the ecological community long to embrace. To contemplate the storm is “to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice” (85).

† **Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:**

In recent decades this warming has been accompanied by a constant rise in the sea level and, it would appear, by an increase of extreme weather events, even if a scientifically determinable cause cannot be assigned to each particular phenomenon. Humanity is called to recognize the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming or at least the human causes which produce or aggravate it. (23)

“To sense each creature singing the hymn of its existence is to live joyfully in God’s love and hope”. This contemplation of creation allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us, since “for the believer, to contemplate creation is to hear a message, to listen to a paradoxical and silent voice.” (85)

Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start, despite their mental and social conditioning. We are able to take an honest look at ourselves, to acknowledge our deep dissatisfaction, and to embark on new paths to authentic freedom. (205)

### Related Prayers of the Faithful

**Option 1:** That we might strive to live that inseparable bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace, let us pray to the Lord...

**Option 2:** That, inspired by the example of Jesus, we might live for the sake of others, be a source of Christian hope, and have the courage to examine our lifestyles, let us pray to the Lord...

### Further Resources

**Feedback:** [info@catholicclimatecovenant.org](mailto:info@catholicclimatecovenant.org)

**Webpage:** <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources?tid=14>

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