

The first reading has the Lord commanding the forces of nature by raising stormy winds and calming the storm. The Lord in all his power directly controls nature, the most powerful force known to man, one of the only things that is out of our reach. It is no wonder then why the people cry out to Him in the first reading, for they are lost. They are forced to turn to what they see as salvation, to call out to the most powerful thing they know, something more powerful than nature, God.

This relates to the Gospel, where Jesus says the three words “Peace! Be still!” to the sea, a force of nature, where it heeds his command and stops beating the boat. It is easy to draw the comparison between Jesus and God in this sense, as both appear to have ultimate power over nature. One should easily be calmed by this, right? For the moment the disciples that up until this point were cowering. The disciples are in awe at this act, but this is not the first time Jesus has demonstrated the measure of power the Lord entrusted into him, and gets angry at the disciples, for they still do not understand or know him.

Worse yet, Jesus seeing them cowering in the first place was enough to say that the disciples did not have faith in Him or in God, as they had fear of death. But why did the disciples still fear? They had been students of Jesus for quite some time but had still not understood Him, his power, or the promises made by Him or the Bible, promises that would keep them safe in death so they would need not fear. But nevertheless, the disciples still fear and go into awe over the power of Jesus.

One explanation is the nature of the disciples. The disciples are almost pure human emotion, their emotion makes them afraid and keeps them from the teachings of Jesus and the Bible. So, let us not make the same mistake. Let us keep our minds open, without fear of death, so that we may take in and understand the lessons of Jesus and the Bible. Keep our minds open to new things and ways of life, such as scouting.

Scouting, which teaches youth everywhere confidence and life skills, and where adults help to spread and teach lessons in the manner of Jesus himself. In participating in scouting, we can learn to be faithful in ourselves and each other, so that we may not fear the boat the next time that it rocks.