AMDG! Season of Creation – ‘Storm Sunday’ Text: Mark 4: 35-41

September 25th, 2016

创造的季节 – “周日风暴”

经文: 《马可福音》第四章，35至41节

2016年9月25日

***Mark 4:35-41  35On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” 36And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” 39He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” 41And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”***

**马可福音 4:35-41平静风浪 35**当天黄昏，耶稣对门徒说：“我们渡到海那边去吧。” **36**门徒离开群众，耶稣已经在船上，他们就载他过去，也有别的船和他同去。 **37**忽然起了狂风，波浪不断地打进船来，舱里积满了水。 **38**耶稣却在船尾靠着枕头睡着了。门徒把他叫醒，对他说：“老师，我们要死了，你不管吗？” **39**耶稣起来，斥责了风，又对海说：“不要作声！安静吧！”风就停止，大大地平静了。 **40**然后对他们说：“为甚么这样胆怯呢？你们怎么没有信心呢？” **41**门徒非常惧怕，彼此说：“这到底是谁，连风和海都听从他？”

The story of Jesus stilling the storm and sea became suddenly much clearer and more meaningful for me last January when I was on my trip to the Holy Land. The day began near the Sea of Galilee - with a visit to some of the places we hear about in the Gospel stories: Nazareth – where Jesus grew up, the Mount of Beatitudes – where he gave the Sermon on the Mount, Capernaum – which served as the home base for much of his ministry. In the late afternoon (probably similar to the time of day mentioned in Mark’s gospel) we boarded a small boat for a ride on the Sea of Galilee itself.

去年一月，在去圣地的途中，我突然更清晰地理解了耶稣让风暴和大海静止的故事。那天，从靠近加利利海的地方开始，我们参观了一些曾经在福音故事里听到过的地方：拿撒勒—耶稣生长的地方，八福山—他曾在山上布道， 迦百农— 他传教活动的大本营。下午晚些时候（可能与《马克福音》中提到的时间相近）， 我们登上一艘小船游览加利利海。

As we began, the sun was shining, the sky was clear and the water was smooth. But about halfway into our voyage – suddenly the winds started to pick up, the waters became choppy – and as we looked to the west – we could see storm clouds rapidly accumulating in the distance and moving quickly our way. The captain informed us that because the storm was approaching so fast, we would need to cut short our trip and return to port. By the time we got back to the wharf, the rain had started and the wind was whipping our clothes all around us. And the story of Jesus and the disciples being caught in a storm suddenly took on much more meaning and significance.

-2-

刚开始的时候，阳光明媚，天空晴朗，海面平静。但是，大概过了一半的航程， 突然刮起了大风，海面顿时波涛汹涌。我们看向西方，发现远处乌云正在迅速堆积并快速向我们所在的方向移动。船长告诉我们，由于风暴来得突然，我们需要缩短旅程，返回港口。我们回到码头的时候，已经开始下雨，来自四面八方的风吹打着我们的衣服。突然我体会到耶稣和门徒被暴风雨所困的故事中所包含的更深层的含义和意义。

It happened, Mark the gospel writer tells us – at the end of a long, tiring day of ministry for Jesus and his disciples. Leaving the crowds behind, they get into a boat with the goal of crossing to the other side. Exhausted – as soon as they set sail – Jesus falls asleep in the boat. But along the way, a storm arises – and the waves beat so fiercely against their small craft that they are in imminent danger of being swamped. Jesus sleeps on – seemingly unaware of the mortal danger they all face – until even the disciples who were fisherfolk and used to such storms – become terrified for their lives. Shaking Jesus awake – their plaintive cry sounds: *“Teacher – don’t you care that we are perishing?!”* In other words, *“Are you kidding me? We are in danger of losing our lives – and you are asleep! What are you thinking! Get us and save us! Get up now!”* There they are – baling water, wrestling the wind-whipped sails and hanging

on for dear life. And Jesus is fast asleep in the stern, his head propped up on a cushion!

《马克福音》的作者告诉我们，风暴发生于耶稣和他的门徒们完成了一整天辛苦的传教之后，他们离开人群，登上一艘船驶向彼岸。他们累坏了，刚起航，耶稣就睡着了。但是途中，风暴骤起，海浪猛烈地击打着他们的小船，他们随时有被海浪吞没的危险。耶稣却依然在睡觉，似乎并没有意识到他们所面临的生命危险。他的门徒虽是些渔民，已习惯于这样的风暴，但是也开始恐惧。他们摇醒耶稣，哀伤地哭泣道：“夫子！你不担心我们会丧命吗？” 换句话说,“你在开玩笑吗？我们正面临着失去生命的危险，而你却能安然入睡！你在想什么！醒来拯救我们！现在就起来！”海水肆虐，与被狂风击打着的帆进行着角斗，威胁着生命。而耶稣却在船尾熟睡，头枕着垫子！

Waking from a sound sleep - Jesus rebukes the wind and tells the sea to simmer down. *‘Peace! Be still!”* The first word ‘*peace*’ is a Greek verb meaning ‘*be silent’* and the second word *‘be still’* literally means ‘*be muzzled’*. Mark goes on to tell us that at Jesus’ words - the winds ceased, and there was a dead calm. Then, turning to the disciples, he asks, “*Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?*” And the disciples - filled with great awe - ask among

themselves, “*Who is this that even the winds and waves obey him?”*

从酣睡中醒来，耶稣斥责风并让大海平静下来。“平静！停止！”第一个字“peace”是一个希腊动词意为“保持安静”和第二个词“be still”的字面意思是“被钳制”。马克继续告诉我们，听到耶稣的话，风停止，即刻风平浪静。然后，耶稣转向门徒，问道:“你们为什么这么害怕？你们还没有信心吗?”门徒们满怀着敬畏互相问道：“这是谁，连风和浪也听从他?”

Let me start by speaking to some subtle undertones in the story that we might miss otherwise: First of all, it is important to remember that Mark is writing at least a generation after Jesus’ death. The original listeners to the gospel certainly knew what it was to live in stormy times of persecution and political unrest – and this story of the calming of the sea would have been immensely comforting to them. Why? Because it was a reminder for them that, despite their perilous condition – the power of God seen and given in Jesus Christ was set loose in the world at his death and resurrection. To voyage with the Risen Christ was to experience peace – even in the midst of the storm.

-3-

让我先说一说这个故事可能会被我们忽略掉的细微的隐含意义：首先，重要的是要记住，马克写这个故事的时间至少是在耶稣死后过了一代之后。最初的听众饱受暴风雨般的迫害和政治动荡之苦，当然知道那是怎样的生活。这个平静大海的故事对他们会是极大的安慰。为什么？因为这是在提醒他们，尽管他们处境危险，在耶稣基督死亡并复活时，上帝赋予他的力量被释放出来，为世人所见。与复活的基督一起航行体验和平——即使在暴风雨中。

Then the setting itself is significant. The earliest readers of Mark’s gospel would have anticipated that Jesus and the disciples were in for a rough ride once they set off into the sea – because the ‘*sea*’ had symbolized the realm of the unknown and the force of chaos for thousands of years. You may remember the opening lines of the book of Genesis about creation, when God brings form out of the waters of chaos*. “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the*

*earth. And the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep.*”

其次，故事的背景意义深刻。《马克福音》最早的一批读者早就预料到，耶稣和门徒一旦出发到海上，就将是一个艰难的旅程。因为“海”象征着未知的领域和持续了上千年的混乱的力量。你可能还记得《创世纪》开头关于创世的描述，上帝从混沌之水中创造了世间万物。“起初，上帝创造了天和地。地是空虚混沌，黑暗笼罩着深渊。”

And the third thing to note is Jesus’ invitation to “*cross to the other side*”. On the surface, it refers to the most direct route between shores. But Mark is actually talking about more than a change in venue. On the other side was Gentile territory, the place of strangers and the unknown. The invitation to go across to the other side, then, is an invitation to be open to new adventures and to ‘the other’ – the stranger - and to trust in God’s presence even into the unknown.-

而需要注意的第三件事是耶稣的邀请，“到达彼岸。”从表面上看，它指的是两岸之间最直接的路线。但是马克实际上所说的并不仅仅是地点的变化。彼岸是异教徒的领地，一个陌生而未知的地方。因此，邀请去彼岸，其实是邀请大家敞开心胸，迎接新的冒险和“未知”—比如陌生人—并且即使进入未知世界，也要相信上帝的存在。

So - like many others in the gospels, this story can be read on multiple levels. On the surface, this is about an unexpected storm on the sea – and Jesus’ response. A miracle story – one which, in this day scientific day and age, can too easily be dismissed as a fairy tale. But if we dig deeper, we also hear a story that speaks to our own experiences of encountering storms in our own lives, and what we can expect from God when chaos and suffering are raging – or when

we face an unknown future.

所以像福音书中的许多其他人一样，这个故事可以在多个层面上来阅读。表面上，这是关于在海上遭遇风暴和耶稣的反应，一个奇迹的故事。在科学如此发达的今天，太容易被人斥为天方夜谭。但如果我们深入挖掘，我们也听到一个故事，讲述我们自己在生活中遇到风暴的经历，以及在混乱和痛苦肆虐时，或者当我们面对一个未知的未来时，我们可以期待从上帝那里得到什么。

Today’s story from Mark’s gospel is about being overwhelmed. It’s about the very real drama we often experience when life is too much for us. It’s about people trying to face the feelings of fear, anxiety and desperation often associated with being overwhelmed by the storms of life. It’s about questioning the seeming absence of God in our most trying of circumstances. And it’s about our own response of faith.

-4-

今天从《马克福音》选取的这个故事是关于在困境中不知所措。这是在现实生活中，当生活的压力过大时，我们常常会经历的情境。这是关于人们被生活的艰辛压得喘不过气时，试图面对恐惧，焦虑和绝望的情绪。是关于我们在最努力的情况下，质疑上帝是否存在。是关于我们自己的信仰的反应。

I’m reminded of a fragment from the ballad about the sinking of the freighter, the Edmund Fitzgerald, one storm-tossed night in 1975 on Lake Superior - with the loss of the entire crew of 29. Sung by Canadian singer and song-writer, Gordon Lightfoot – it asks the question: ***“Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to hours?”*** It’s the plaintive cry behind the disciples’ question to Jesus *“Teacher, do you not care*

*that we are perishing?!”*

我想起了一段从流行歌的词中提到的沉没货轮 - 埃德蒙.肥茨杰拉德大货轮， 在1975年北美大 湖上在风暴中颠簸，船员29人全部失踪。加拿大歌星Gordon Lightfoot唱到（唱词是以提问的方式）： “有没有人知道当海浪从几分钟翻腾到到几个小时的时候，上帝的爱在哪里？ ”当门徒悲伤的哭泣地问耶稣““老师，我们要死了，你不管吗？”

Where ***does*** the love of God go when the storm clouds break over our lives?

 - when people like the Syrian friends we welcomed on Friday are forced to leave their homes, their livelihoods and all they know in order to flee for their very lives;

 - when the bodies of migrants, desperate for safety and a new life, wash up on foreign shores;

 - when young black men are killed in the streets – just for the colour of their skin;

 - or when people cannot go to the local mall without fearing for their safety.

在风暴黑云打碎我们的生活的时候，上帝的爱在哪里？

 - 当周五我们去机场迎接那些因被迫离开家园的叙利亚的朋友们。

 - 当那些因为渴望安全和新生活而漂泊在海上，而被海浪冲到其他国家的岸上。

 - 当年轻的黑人在街头被枪杀，只是因为他们的肤色。

 - 或者当人们因为安全而害怕去附近的购物中心的时候。

Where ***does*** the love of God go ….

 - when Indigenous youth see no future and suicide seems the only way out;

 - or when thousands are lost in earthquakes, famine, or conflict?

上帝的爱去到哪里......

 - 当原住民的年轻人看不到未来，以自杀最为唯一的解脱；

 -或者当成千上万的人在地震中、饥荒和冲突中失去生命？

***Where does the love of God go*** …. Who has not asked that question at some point in their lives when the storms of life break over them?

 - when you sit in a doctor’s office and hear the terrifying words: “You’ve got cancer”;

 - when you suffer a stroke and find yourself a prisoner in your own body;

 - or when you experience the aching loss of a loved one?

-5-

**上帝的爱去到哪里**......在生活的某一时刻当风暴袭击我们的时候，又有谁不问这个问题呢？

 - 当你坐在医生办公室，听到可怕的话：“你得了癌症”；

 - 当你患血栓并发现你自己身体失去自由的时候；

 -或者当你痛苦地经历了亲人离世；

Out of the storms in our lives we cry: “Doesn’t God care that my child is on drugs? Doesn’t God care that I work hard day after day and still fall further and further behind? Doesn’t God care?!!

***“Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to***

***hours?”***

在我们生活中突袭的风暴是我们哭泣：“上帝不在乎我儿子的吸毒吗？我每天努力工作但是还是越来越落伍，上帝不在乎我吗？上帝不在乎？！！***“有没有人知道当海浪从几分钟翻腾到到几个小时的时候，上帝的爱在哪里？”***

Over the last month or so, I have sat on several occasions with a young woman who called me out of the blue and asked if I would meet with her. Tanya (*not her real name*) is 43 – a stay-at-home mother of two young boys. Last November she found a lump in her breast, and 2 days before Christmas, she had a mastectomy. That was followed by 6 months of chemo, and then in June by reconstructive surgery. During the surgery they biopsied some of her lymph nodes because they suspected there might be more traces of cancer. And this Fall, she is undergoing radiation treatment. After sharing her story with me, Tanya’s question was this: “Why? Why is this happening to me? Why can’t I feel God’s presence with me? Is God mad at me? Is there something I did for which God is punishing me? Where is God in all of this?” Poignant questions, which demand responses that are not just placating and trite. Questions that all of us ask at one time or another. In the midst of the storms of our lives – does God really care?

***“Does anyone know where the love of God goes when the waves turn the minutes to***

***hours?”***

大概在上个月，我和一个年轻妇女聊了一些事情，她是突然打电话给我，并问我是否和她见面。Tanya（不是她的真名）43岁，家庭主妇并照顾两个男孩。去年11月份她发现乳腺上有一个肿块，来圣诞节的前两天，她做了乳腺切除术。经过六个月的化疗，然后来年6月份做了乳腺整形术。在手术中，活体检查中又发现了淋巴节处有肿块，医生怀疑可能是扩散。今年的秋天，她又开始放疗。当她和我讲述了她的不幸后，她问我：“为什么？为什么这要发生在我身上。为什么我没有感到上帝与我在一起？上帝对我很恼怒吗？是不是我做错了什么受到上帝的惩罚？在这一切里上帝究竟在哪里？这种痛切的问题并不是简单的安抚或老套的回应就可以的解决的。这些问题我们所有的人都在不停的问。在我们今天生活的风暴中，上帝真在乎我们吗？***“有没有人知道当海浪从几分钟翻腾到到几个小时的时候，上帝的爱在哪里？”***

-6-

With his story of the calming of the storm – Mark reminds us that when the storms of our lives can seem overwhelming – when the waves turn the minutes to hours ….the love of God is right there with us. It doesn’t guarantee that the storms won’t come. They will. A life of faith is not the same as taking out a celestial insurance policy. It doesn’t mean that if you believe enough –

if you attend church, and say your prayers – that you will circumvent the storms of life.

当风暴平息的时候，--马可提醒我们，在我们生活中的风暴看上似乎是势不可挡 -- 当巨浪从几分钟翻滚到几小时，上帝的爱和我们在一起。上帝的爱不能确保风暴不来袭击。风暴会来的。有信仰的生命并不是你在天国中得到了一份保险。并不是说你有足够的信心、去教会、或者祷告你就可以躲开风暴。

But it does mean that we are not alone; that in the storms of life, God’s presence stays in the boat with us – surrounding, sustaining, supporting, empowering – enabling even such faint-

hearted and fearful people as us – to trust in that promise and find peace.

但是，它的意义是我们在风暴中我们不是孤独的，上帝和我们同坐在船上，祂围绕着我们，支撑、支持和给我们力量 -- 给我们这些胆小害怕的人们。我们要坚信这个许诺并从中找到平安。

And not only is that love there – but it is there with assurance, that one day:

 - there will be calm;

 - the storm will be ended;

 - and what is broken will be made whole.

不仅爱在那里，而且有保证，总有一天会：

 - 平安会来到

 - 风暴会停止

 - 破裂的会重新结合成整体

May it be so. 的确如此