



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY August 13 & BEYOND

Reason and Faith: The miracles of Jesus



“Reason is an action of the mind; knowledge is a possession of the mind; but faith is an attitude of the person. It means you are prepared to stake yourself on something being so.”-- Michael Ramsey, 100th Archbishop of Canterbury.

Recently, I saw this quote from Archbishop Michael Ramsey, and I felt it fit nicely with this week’s gospel. Reason and faith go together, but they are not the same thing. Reason *is* an action of the mind. It comes from deep reflection and consideration. It may well come as a scientific conclusion or serious study. It is also a possession of the mind. God has given us these great gifts of reason and mental reflection and calculation. How we use them or ignore them is our doing entirely.

Many would say it is not reasonable to believe in the miracles of Jesus. This past Sunday, we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration. In it, we hear of the powerful physical transformation of Jesus. He appears as God’s Chosen Son, in white raiment. He stands before the disciples in glory, leaving them (nearly) speechless in his reflected radiance. Peter says, “It is well that we are here,” (Matthew 17:4) but he does not know what he is saying. The vision is beyond reason.

It is no different in this Sunday’s gospel. The disciples are on a boat in the Sea (lake) of Galilee. The waters are rough, the wind is fierce, sailing is perilous. This is something quite common on the lake. Storms come and go quickly even today, and they are difficult to navigate. Jesus is not with them. He is on a mountain nearby in prayer. I can imagine the disciples praying too, “Lord, help us!”

Jesus’ sudden presence walking on water is one of his greatest miracles, like the Transfiguration. The disciples are terrified, but Jesus tells them “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid,” Matthew 14:17. It is a powerful response of Jesus to their peril, and it requires faith. How can I be unafraid in this storm? What can I make of your

sudden presence and miraculous power? Who *are* you Jesus, and who am I that you have called me?

It is an act of faith when Peter asks Jesus to invite him across the water. Ramsey talks about the attitude of faith, where “you are prepared to stake yourself on something being so.” Taking that first step out of the boat onto the water is a real act of faith. Peter literally stakes his life on his faith in Jesus when he walks on water with him. Yes, he becomes fearful and weak, “Lord, save me!” (14:30), but for a moment he has staked it all on Jesus. It is a great moment in the life of Peter. I’m reminded that this character of Peter is why he was chosen to lead the apostles.

Perhaps the difference between faith and reason is the willingness to get out of the boat. There is no logical reason for Peter to believe that he can walk on water. Nothing has prepared him for this moment. It can only come from faith. That is why faith and courage are words that belong together, and give us a proper purpose in life.

Perhaps faith can be understood as being willing to get out of the boat, and trust in the Lord our God. That is a reasonable meaning for me.

Father Steven L. Schuneman

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
 9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
 10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)
 Noon- 4:00pm Open Church – Open Courtyard
 All Saints’ Welcomes the Hillcrest Community
 —*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors’ Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary’s Chapel)
 9:30a Mass (St. Mary’s Chapel)

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies’ Group (Fireside Room)
8:15p Men’s Group (Parish Hall)

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
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