

“Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” Matthew 8:23-25 NLT

lectio // Matthew 8:18-34

I admit, I have very little awareness of that word, “with.” Okay, there is no way the guys in the boat could have understood that God was going on a boat-ride with them. When the gospels say, Jesus was “with,” just means that in every situation imaginable, the guys just thought they had a really good, really amazing Rabbi, teacher with them. So, no matter how much I love and respect a leader (teacher), I’m not going to just set my fears aside when there’s a natural disaster going on around me. In a tornado, hurricane or 8.0 earthquake, I’m not trying to figure out if my teacher will “save” me! I PANIC, and try to save myself or hopefully, try to work together for our group to be saved. Now, what if I truly believed my teacher IS God? Hmm, I’m still not sure I’d take a nap - NAPS sound like the ultimate “faith” response in my opinion. Let me bring this in for today. Jesus IS with me, with you. He promised he would be. AND, the WAVES are also WITH me. However, even in the smallest panic/stressful moments of my life, I don’t behave like he’s with me on the journey. I don’t have enough of that God-awareness, self-awareness to remember that and those moments, take an emotional nap and just rest and realize that I don’t control storms, conflicts, or seemingly random situations that come my way. Jesus IS with us and... the WAVES are with us too.

oratio

Dad,
Of course, I’m humbled and challenged by these crisis stories where things seem out of control, yet because you are with me, and I feel out of control (which I am), you are completely IN CONTROL. This is a faith that is activated out of muscle memory I would think. Faith that has been practiced in so many regular, small ways that when a storm/crisis hits, my whole being kicks into faith mode and I relax, even take an emotional nap because “thou art with me!” I’m praying this right now, “You are WITH me.” Amen.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root