



That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" Mark 4:35-41

For this Monday morning, a brief story...

A man was asked to paint a boat. He brought his paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him.

While painting, he noticed a small hole in the hull, and quietly repaired it.

When he finished painting, he received his money and left.

The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice check, much higher than the payment for painting. The painter was surprised and said, "You've already paid me for painting the boat sir!"

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for repairing the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service... certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant."

**"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened:
"When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention the hole. When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip. They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time. When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole. Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing. Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay for your 'small' good deed."**

No matter who, when, or how, it's important that we continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively, and carefully repair all the "leaks" we find. You never know when one is in need of us, or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone. Along the way, we may repair numerous "boat holes" for several people without realizing how many lives we've saved. The storms of life will always be raging, but we trust that Christ is always present, ready and willing to quiet even the most frightening tempest.

Pastor Chuck

Let us pray. Lord Jesus, thank you for calming the storms in our lives, and for plugging the holes that allow unhealthy things to leak into our lives. With the assurance that you are always present, use us to do those seemingly small services for others that can sometimes end up being life-saving. Amen