

TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2017

(LEC. 378)

**TUESDAY OF 13TH WEEK OF
ORDINARY TIME**

1. GENESIS 19:15-29

2. MATTHEW 8:23-27

GOSPEL RELATED: CCC 2610

**FOCUS: NO MATTER WHAT
CALAMITIES OR STORMS WE FACE
IN OUR LIVES, GOD CALLS US TO
HAVE FAITH IN HIM.**

In today's first reading, Lot is rescued from Sodom by two angels, who urge him to leave the city with his family before it is destroyed. Lot hesitates not once but twice, yet still is rescued. In the reading from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is asleep in the boat when a storm rises from the sea and high waves swamp the boat. Lord, save us! his disciples cry. What does our Lord do? He chastises them for their lack of faith, but immediately calms the storm.

In both of these situations, the faith of those who believe in God is not as strong as it could be. In the first reading, Lot is weak and irresolute in his dealings with the messengers sent from God to destroy the city of Sodom. When Lot hesitates to leave, he and his wife and two daughters are seized by their hands and, by the Lord's mercy, led to safety. Even then, Lot is unwilling to flee to the hills and asks to go to the next little town. His request is granted.

In today's Gospel, as evening falls, Jesus continues to cure people and exorcise demons until he finally gets into the boat to cross to the other side. His disciples follow him and he falls asleep in the boat.

Have you ever been awakened from a deep sleep? It can be a jolting experience making you feel slightly disoriented and sometimes a bit cranky. Jesus might have been experiencing some of the same feelings—he sleeps in the bottom of the boat when suddenly his trusted disciples are waking him. They are terrified over the wind and waves. Even though they have witnessed him curing lepers and driving out demons—and he's in the boat with them—they do not trust that they will come through the storm unharmed.

We can learn a lot about our own faith by studying these two stories. There could be a little Lot in all of us—how many times have we second-guessed God even after he's shown us a solution to a problem? Or thrown up our arms in terror, not convinced of God's power to save us? Through his Son, God teaches us to trust him in all things. Just have faith.



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