

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (6/20-21/2009)

Job 38/1-11, Psalm 107, 2 Corinthians 5/14-17, Mark 4/35-41

If you are in a confrontational mood, today's first and third readings are for you.

God Himself confronted Job, a man who had suffered irreparable damage personally and in his family, and who kept insisting he had done nothing wrong to merit such treatment.

During the course of this Old Testament book, Job argued vehemently against the opinion of four friends who tried to convince him that his ill fortune meant he had done something grievously wrong. He protested his innocence loud and clear.

In the end, God must have gotten tired of the dispute so He sat Job down to face facts.

As we like to say: facts are friendly, and God proceeded to tell Job that He is the creator, the divine planner, and has the final say on everything.

Job has to trust him and trust his ways. Ultimately, Job gets the message.

In the Gospel, Jesus is asleep in a boat when a great storm arises on the Sea of Galilee.

His twelve apostles, some of whom are professional fishermen, panic and rush to wake Jesus up from his obviously deep sleep.

Their question to him makes me laugh: *"Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"*

If they perish, so will he!

After commanding the elements to calm down, Jesus turns to the twelve and says: *"Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith in me?"*

On the one hand, we mustn't be too judgmental of the twelve frightened passengers.

Had we experienced that storm, we'd probably have done the same thing.

On the other hand, they had seen Jesus in action; they knew his power; they'd experienced his compassion and care.

They should have trusted him – as should we when our worlds start to fall apart.

That is what the Lord asks of us: Trust him

Recently there has been a book on the best-seller list called "The Speed of Trust: The One Thing That Changes Everything" by Stephen M. R. Covey.

Covey's thesis is that the most important reality in all relationships is trust.

Where trust exists, problems get solved much quicker; planning and carrying out of those plans proceed quicker.

Companies and, for that matter, endeavors of every kind, are more successful.

People work and live together in much more harmony.

In short, the very best things happen when people trust one another.

Check your own experience to validate his proposition.

But mutual trust or the lack thereof is not a revolutionary idea.

It can be found in the Scriptures all the way back to the beginning of the human race when Adam and Eve didn't trust the word of God, and, consequently, fell from grace.

Later on, the failure of the Israelite people to trust the covenant God had made with them occasioned untold suffering in their lives.

Trust in God and one another is not just important; it is absolutely essential.