

# Read

1 Corinthians 4:14–21

Mark 4:35–41

# Consider

One of the devotional aids that I have as e-books is the three volume set, [Ancient Christian Devotional: A Year of Weekly Readings](#). In June, the same week that I concluded the sermon based on this text, I read an excerpt from a sermon by St. Augustine. He was commenting on the story from Mark 4; the disciples must awaken Jesus because he slept while the waves threatened to swamp their boat. Reminders were on my mind and St. Augustine's thoughts struck me as being the sort of reminder that we need to hear.

"When you have to listen to abuse, that means you are being buffeted by the wind. When your anger is roused, you are being tossed by the waves. So when the winds blow and the waves mount high, the boat is in danger, your heart is imperilled, your heart is taking a battering. On hearing yourself insulted, you long to retaliate; but the joy of revenge brings with it another kind of misfortune—shipwreck. Why is this? Because Christ is asleep in you. What do I mean? I mean you have forgotten his presence. Rouse him, then; remember him, let him keep watch within you, pay heed to him.... A temptation arises: it is the wind. It disturbs you: it is the surging of the sea. This is the moment to awaken Christ and let him remind you of those words: 'Who can this be? Even the winds and the sea obey him.'"

There are some gracious and loving reminders given to us by the apostle in this section of his letter to the church at Corinth. These reminders will bless you, I'm sure. I hope you'll be watching this coming Sunday.

The Rev. Dr. Bill Norman

# Pray

"Steer the ship of my life, Good Lord, to your quiet harbour, where I can be safe from the storms of sin and conflict. Show me the course I should take. Amen."

St. Basil the Great (c.330–379)

# D i v i n g   D e e p e r

Who is your spiritual father or mother? How did that person help you to embrace faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord? How did that person or perhaps someone else help you to grow in faith?

Try to imagine Timothy making his way to Corinth on behalf of Paul. What sort of feelings would he experience? How do you think he prepared for this task?

What characteristics, attitudes and actions of Paul do you think are worth us imitating? What does it mean to you that we are to model our lives after Jesus?

What reminders of God's grace and provision do you need to hear in this chapter of your life?

How can we live closer **WITH** God in our lives?

How are we being **TRANSFORMED** to be more like Christ?

How is the Holy Spirit empowering us to imitate Christ in what we **DO** this week?