

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

The sorrow which Martha and Mary knew at the time of the death of their brother Lazarus caused them to say: *Lord if you had been here, my brother had not died, but even now I know that whatever you will ask of God, He will give it to you.*

The Apostle Peter's mother in-law was healed and arose and ministered to those who had come to her house. The fear of drowning which filled the hearts of the disciples when their boat took on water during the storm caused them to awaken Jesus from sleep. He calmed the winds and the waves to that it was said of Him: *What manner of man is this that even the winds and the waves obey Him?*

All of those people found a compassionate friend in Jesus - One who was willing and able to help them. He understood each of them; He knew their needs. Very often He spoke the word which released them, not only their burden, but from the weight of their sin as well.

Early in my ministry I met a lady who was enduring the lingering effects of a serious illness. She told me as difficult as her illness had become for her, it also had some important benefits. She explained by saying that when she was well, she had no serious thoughts about her soul. She did not concern herself with the question: "Where will I spend eternity?" However, during her illness, she came to realize how short-sighted she was neglecting the most important thing of all. These serious thoughts led her to ask: "What must I do to be saved?" It was a joy to preach Jesus to her, assuring her that she could freely believe that her sins were all forgiven in the name and the atoning blood of the Savior. She believed the gospel, received rest for her soul, and was also able to place the burden of her permanent physical disability in the hands of the Lord, assured that if she did not receive healing for the body in this life, she would, nevertheless, in her new and glorified body, walk the streets of gold in the celestial city.

Whatever our burdens may be, the Lord, still today, invites us to come to Him and find rest. I do not know the individual circumstances of each one of you who may be reading this message. The Lord may be calling some to repentance and faith in Him. Others may be undergoing a part of trial of faith as believers - a trial that Apostle Peter calls more precious than that of gold which perishes.

If, in all the vicissitudes of life, we can come to the Lord, place our trust in Him and our lives in His hand, acknowledging that He is the potter and we are the clay, we will prove the Scriptures promise that in all things God works together for good to them that love the Lord.

Alvin Holmgren
C.M. August 1991

II Peter 3:1
...I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance

Submitted by Ken McLachlan