

## **Sermon Summary**

**4<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost**

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

- The miracle of calming the sea is often explained as one which reveals Jesus as God (Mark 4:35-41)
- There are two problems:
- If its that clear- the disciples who were there do not get it
- OT prophets could do similar things.
- This need not imply Jesus is God
- What might it the suggest
- The miracle includes a few words about faith. It compares the faith of the disciples with the faith of Jesus
- Jesus' faith in God cancels out adversity
- Boats are often a symbol (from Noah onwards) of God's people.
- We are presented here with a community which faces paralysis because of its lack of faith.
- The disciples ask Jesus for help. His faith can save, but his answer makes clear that they should have this kind of faith so that they are positive forces for change, not terrified passive sufferers.
- Sometimes as I look around this diocese, or sit in meetings, I think that we are like those disciples, sitting in the ship of faith, terrified by the storms and prospects which seem to surround us. They seem to paralyse us, just as they did the disciples.
- We also live in an age where finance is dominated by words like bail-out. Everyone hopes someone else will bail them out.
- The disciples look to Jesus to bail them out.
- His words, though, are a warning...
- The theology of bail-out should be replaced by one in which we have faith to take control of our own destiny, and not expect a miraculous intervention.

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