



Reflection from Linda Art

Have you ever heard the phrase “too good to be true”? To most people this phrase means that something is so good that it is difficult to believe that it is real or was so good that it could not possibly have been true.

For example, when advertisers of cell phone plans or gadgets or skin cream profess “no hidden fees”, or “it works every time” or “your skin will look younger.” Many of us have purchased a product based on advertising only to discover that the ad’s promises were “too good to be true.”

God promised that he would always be with us and always love us. This promise seems too good to be true, especially when we are overwhelmed with problems in our lives. It is natural for us to experience doubts regarding the presence and power of God when we are faced with difficult challenges.

In this Sunday’s gospel, we hear about Peter experiencing fear and doubt. In the reading, it is nighttime and the disciples are alone in a boat a few miles offshore. The boat is being tossed about by the waves due to strong winds. Jesus came toward them walking on the sea and when the disciples saw him, they were terrified and thought he was a ghost. Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid.” Peter said to him in reply, “Lord if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

In the gospel, Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. Peter seeks proof that the person walking on the sea is indeed Jesus and he asks Jesus to call him out into the water. Jesus grants his request. Peter’s fear and doubt overtake him once he is walking on the water. When Peter began to sink, he may have thought, “this is too good to be true.” But Jesus kept his promise and reached out to take Peter’s hand and he saved him.

In this coming week, pay attention to the times when you feel like you are sinking-when you are frustrated with your job or struggle with personal relationships or a lingering illness or addiction. Remember you have the ability to experience God’s presence, reaching out his hand to lift you up, bringing people into your life to support you during the rough times, giving you strength to overcome your obstacles. Have faith and trust that you will make it through. Know that God will always be with you and he loves you no matter what.

*Peace,
Linda*