

**We all have troubled moments in our lives. The question is:  
How do we handle them?**

### **Story about Dorothy Day**

**Grew up as an involved young adult and as an atheist**

**Those who placed their trust in God simply did not want to face  
the realities of life.**

**Active as a socialist in causes.**

**Met a man who shared similar ideas and moved in with him.**

**Became pregnant and had a beautiful baby girl.**

**Her heart was filled with gratitude, and she wondered to whom  
she owed such a thankful heart.**

**Became a believer and was baptized.**

**She wanted to have her child baptized but her boyfriend  
objected.**

**Eventually she had to move out and was very depressed.**

**One day she took the train into Washington DC and visited the  
Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. There in the quiet of the  
church she poured out her soul to the Lord. After a long time in  
prayer begging for the strength to carry on, she returned to  
her apartment building. As she was walking up the stairs, there  
sitting in front of her was Peter Maurin, who invited her to be  
part of the Catholic Worker. From that moment on her life was  
transformed.**

**She became one of the lay leaders which would leave an  
immense mark upon the Catholic Church and upon its**

**leadership in social justice in this country.**

**Yes, during troubled times in her life, Dorothy Day turned towards God in prayer.**

**We live in troubled times. And even in the best of times, we all have troubled moments. How do we endure them? How do we move through them? How do we walk with others who are troubled? How can we not only have the courage to face the storms of our lives, but also, as disciples of Jesus, assist others in difficult situations.**

**That is what today's gospel is all about. So often when we talk about Peter and the disciples being out in the boat in the middle of the stormy night; we reflect on how Peter had faith, listened to the Lord's call and got out of the boat, and then Peter began to doubt, and how Jesus saved him.**

**But just for a moment this morning (afternoon) I would like to focus on Jesus and how he learned to walk with people through the storms of their lives.**

**Remember last week's gospel? Jesus has just heard about the death of his cousin, John the Baptist.**

**And so scripture simply says, When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew to a deserted place to pray. However. We know from last week's gospel that the crowds followed Jesus and he had compassion on them, preaching to them and feeding the 5,000.**

**But Jesus still had not processed HIS loss. Can you imagine**

**what Jesus must have been going through when he heard?**

**Here had been one of his closest relatives. For all we know, he may have grown up with John as a playmate. Who knows, he may have visited him frequently. If the two had been born in our day, it is quite possible that Jesus and John the Baptist might have gone to the our parish summer camp together and played hoops out in our streets. If If the two had lived as our contemporaries, John and Jesus might even have gone with their young adult friends to the Better Men Outreach basketball program on Sunday afternoons and reflected with their peers on the meaning and direction of life.**

**We know they were very close relatives. We do know from scripture that when John the Baptist decided that Jesus was the Son of God, he instructed his followers to become disciples of Jesus. It was his cousin, John, whose head had been literally served on a platter to Herod. And Jesus knew well that he could face the same fate.**

**So, when finishes feeding the 5,000, Jesus sends his disciples out on the boat alone and he finally gets time to retreat to a deserted place to talk things over with his Father and to mourn the loss of John.**

**We don't know what Jesus prayed for that evening, but we do know it lasted for hours. Then, once he had again processed the loss of his cousin and reestablished total trust in his Father, Jesus returned to his mission of saving God's people. Jesus had worked things out with his Father. No matter what storm Peter and the disciples faced in the boat, they were now going to be in good hands.**

**Jesus' retreat into prayer is similar to Isaiah's flight into the desert to avoid his enemies who were trying to kill him, which**

**we read in today's first reading. Jesus knew that his Father was often to be found not in storms and lightning, but in the quiet of night prayer. And so scripture simply tells us that he sends his disciples out in the boat and goes into the hillside to pray.**

**My brothers and sister, Jesus is not only the SOURCE of strength to get us through the storms of life, he shows us the WAY to get through. Many people in our world seek miracles and wondrous deeds from God...and God can act in whatever way God chooses. But what we learn from Jesus, is that God most OFTEN acts to renew us in the midst of quiet prayer.**

**(tell the story of the other day)**

**Yes the good news is there is a God.**

**And the better news is that it is not you or me.**

**And the best news is that we have such a blessed model in Jesus who shows us the way,**

**reveals to us the truth of ourselves and our life situations,**

**and is one who leads us to refreshment and fullness of life.**