

HOW TO BE ALIVE

Courage to be

Spend some time with Matthew 14: 22-33. Jesus walks on the sea towards the disciples in the boat being battered by the waves and the wind, and says to them:

“Take heart, it is I, do not be afraid”.

They are frightened but Peter answers Jesus:

“Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water”.

In your imagination- as you face what it is that causes you anxiety or fear- speak Peter’s words to God:

Lord, if it is you...? Is it the good voice of God?

Does it lead to life?

Am I willing to check this voice out with a trusted soul-friend?

Is it congruent with the Jesus of the gospels?

We are created to be partners in a dialogue: a “dialogue of salvation”

(John Paul II)

command.... Can I face the fact that I cannot do this?

Can I mourn my limitations, and accept them?

Am I willing to recognize my creature-liness, my inability to take the next step (that will-power isn’t enough)?

Can I ask for grace?

Grace is both gift and response: gift and gratitude: God’s YES to us and humanity’s YES to God.

me.... Am I willing to face and take responsibility for my life?

Am I prepared to be stretched and challenged here?

“God’s first gift to me is to be able to say ‘I am’”

St. Augustine

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to come to you....

Can I see beyond changing the circumstances of my life and recognize I am being offered a relationship with God, an encounter with God which will become the pearl of great price and which will satisfy my soul's hunger?

But am I willing to take the next step?

"I learn by going where I have to go"

Theodore Roethke

on the water....

Am I able to see that the only way forward is the way through (not over, or around) the pain, the darkness?

"light over the darkness is the anti-Christ:

light through the darkness is the Christ"

(an ancient saying)
