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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

There He Is!

We are often tried by life. We go through times of darkness and silence. There are times of darkness when we can't see and times of silence when we cannot hear. I mean times when we can't hear God speak or when all seems to be confused. There is not that clarity of leadership and comfort that we'd love to see. We are also tried by something else. I'll call it "nothing." We walk the path of nothing happening that we can see or sense. We are forced to wait on God to do something or create something. Again, these things try us.

In that darkness, however, we are often allowed to glimpse a spark... just a spark. Or it might be like that single brave star that watches over the inky dark lending the tiniest twinkle. It's there, then gone. Perhaps you've heard the faint whisper of a warm voice when you thought you were all alone. That single glimpse of His presence can sustain you for weeks. It seems the darkness magnifies His light.

I'm remembering a time when the disciples were on a ship, in a storm, and in the dark. We can't imagine some things like this because we live in a time when there are lights everywhere. The darkness has had to retreat. But, the disciples did not live in that world. There they are on the bouncing waves within a sea storm (the worst kind) cut off from all humanity, in the dark. In the midst of this fear-producing chaos here comes Jesus. He came to them in their fears and chaos. He saw through their trials and came to be with them. There He is! At first He didn't calm the storm, at first He was just there. They had lost Jesus, but Jesus had not lost them. My friend you may have lost Jesus, but He surely has not lost you.

Jesus shows up. He shows up just when we need Him most. In that inky darkness all they needed was Jesus. There are times when life tries us. It puts us to the test. It squeezes out our courage. It dries out our "faith." Life has a way of confusing us so much that we don't know east from west, nor north from south. But, then there's Jesus. There He is! Like a spark of light in a deep dark night Jesus makes all the difference in the world.

He comes to us and brings with Him all that is good, and pure, and wholesome and beautiful in life. Where He is there is hope to try again. Where Jesus is, the darkness of hate and fear shrink. They have to retreat.

So, whatever your darkness; no matter how bad it feels you are not lost to Him. He may come in a single twinkle, but in that circumstance that's all you need. Look around and you might see Him. Here comes Jesus.

There He is!
Jerry Rea