

THE HIGH PLAINS PREACHER

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher, stories about the Bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle.

Keep on Fishing

by Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer

In a famous passage from the Bible, St. Paul wrote, “If God is for us, who can be against us? What can ever separate from the love of God?”

After he penned those words, Paul went on to draw up a list of things that people might be tempted to think would have the power to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus: “Neither hunger, nakedness nor persecution,” writes St. Paul, “no heights no depths, no powers in heaven, no empires or governments on earth, will ever be able to separate us from the love of God.

So, what’s at the top of your list of scary things today? If you’re a grade school student, you might be praying for protection from a bully on a playground. If you’re a soldier in combat, it might be protection from a bullet. For family struggling with finances, it might be protection from foreclosure. For a patient facing a serious illness, it might be protection from a recurrence of that illness

If something like this is what you find written at the top on *your* list, you need to take a closer look at St. Paul’s list because the first thing at the top of his list is LOVE. What can separate us from the *Love* of God? His answer: Nothing. In other words: whatever scary things you might scribble on your list of fears, God scratches them off and replaces them with the word Love.

This doesn’t mean that this world of ours is not a scary place. It doesn’t mean that we will never worry or that our palms will never sweat. But it does mean that, no matter what, God’s love will rescue us. God’s love will deliver us. “You are my rock and my refuge,” says the Book of Psalms. “My stronghold to give me safety.”

I heard a story about a boy who was invited to join his classmate and his classmate’s father on a fishing trip. They were fishing off a dam when clouds gathered and thunder echoed in the distance. The boy high-tailed it off the dam as quick as he could. But the father and the son stayed on the dam a bit longer. The boy would cast his rod, reel it in, then glance at his dad. When he heard thunder, he’d take a step toward his dad then then make another cast. The son trusted his father. And his trust outweighed his fear.

When your list is long and your fear is great, step closer to the Father. And keep on fishing!

