
Shipwreck Bad Thoughts.

Don't let them shipwreck you. When the billows of lust pound against you, when the stiff winds of illicit desire or a squall of bad thoughts threaten to upset you and dump you into the dark, choppy sea of grave sin, don't be afraid. Think of the story of Christ and His disciples the day they went out to sea.

Christ fell asleep. A great storm whipped up. The apostles were panicky. They rushed to their Master and broke into His sleep. "Lord, save us, we perish."

That was a fine thing to do-- but not the best. Gently the Savior rebuked them. Said He: "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" Little faith, not enough trust-- perhaps that is your trouble.

Christ knew of their worries. Of course He was asleep-- Son of Man, human. But always He is the Son of God, wide awake to the troubles of every one of his creatures, interested deeply in the tiniest sparrow, nay the hairs of your head.

What is more, besides infinite knowledge Christ enjoys infinite power. That is why the apostles should not have doubted, why you should never doubt. He proved that their trust in Him was well founded. "Then rising up, He commanded the winds and the sea, and a great calm ensued."

So, in the midst of the tempest, when the hurricane forces of lust sweep upon you, don't get excited, panicky, tense. Think! Quietly pray. Turn to Christ and say: "Lord, save me, I perish."

Then all the graces you've been storing up from your Holy Communions, well made, and your devout assistance at Mass (the whole Mass as often as possible) will

form again, as it were, the hand of Christ. "Be still," it will command the whirlwind of uninvited temptation. There will come a great calm . . . peace of mind, joy of heart, strength of will: EQUILIBRIUM, no fear, complete trust. You will not be excited because you'll be trusting in Christ.

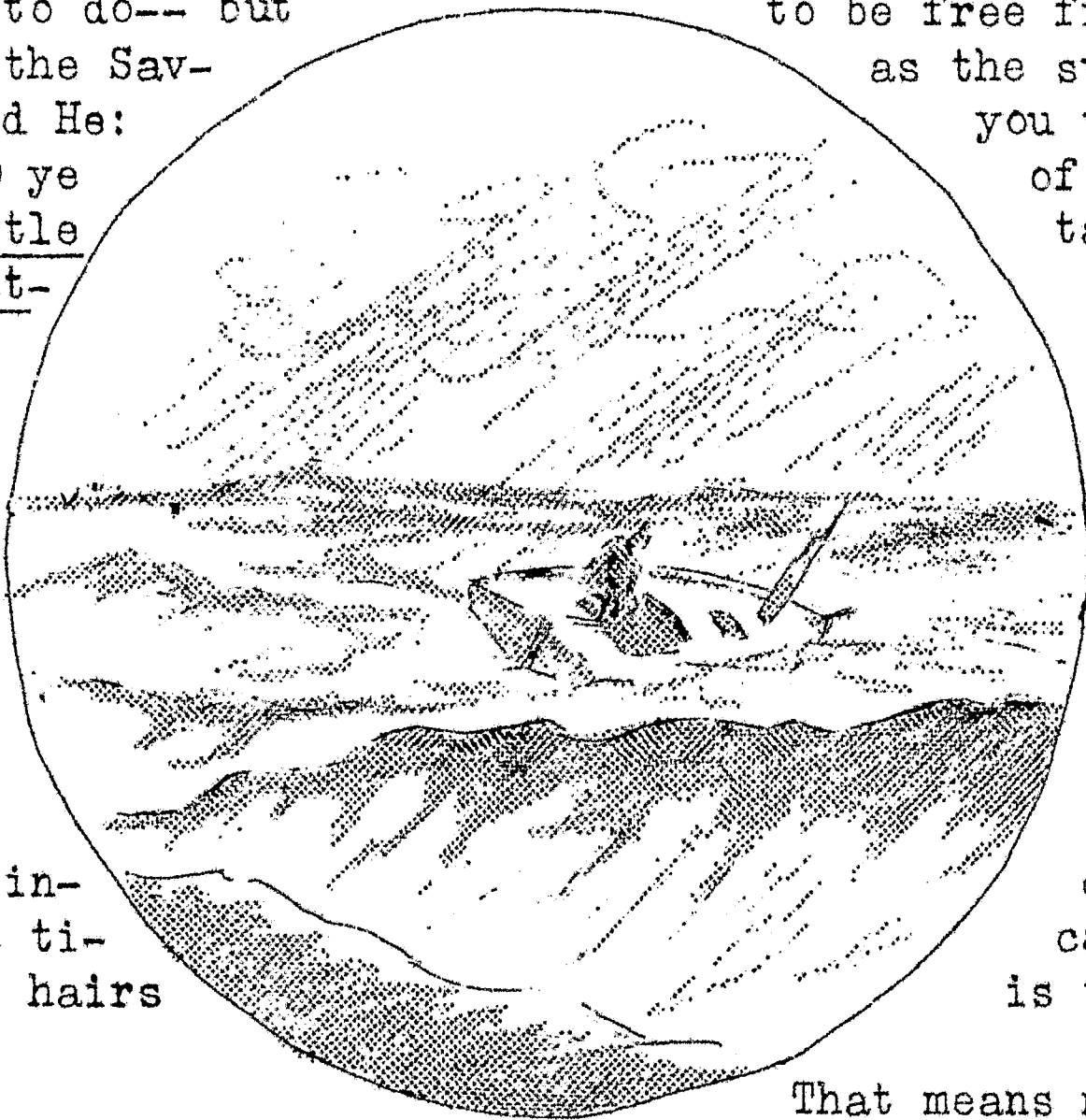
But you'll never trust Christ that much till you really know Him and love Him. Lay your plans tonight in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament-- you and He.

It comes down to this. You cannot expect to be free from temptations. Sure as the sunrise, they'll be with you tomorrow. That is part of your painful inheritance as a child of

Adam and Eve . . .

But that is not all.

You are also a son of God and you have Christ's comforting reassurance: "My grace is sufficient for thee." The only thing is: be practical. These stubborn temptations won't change. The only logical solution to victory is that you must change.



That means more will-power-- adherence to a program of self-denial. No sugar in coffee this week. No butter next. Up at the first nerve-wracking jangle of the morning bell day after day-- not to make check, not to get "pers," but because you want to love God and strengthen your self-control. . . You must build up manly, sure-fire decision. At the first stir of imagination toward these things, at the first excitement of passion, a generous "Nothing doing" and stick to it. . . You must sincerely keep away from "occasions" -- bad jokes, sly glances, curiosity, songs, borderline pictures and "ads." . . . And by all means, you must build up a greater love for the Person of Christ and Mary Immaculate. Add your good-will to their steady power and you can't fail.

PRAYERS: (deceased) grandmother of Dan (Al.) Joe (Cav.) and John (Zahm) Sheedy. Ill, Mrs. James F. Duly, sister of Sr. M. Joseph, Carmelite; friend of Jim McVay (Ewenson); (seriously) mother of Lou Podruch (Cav.); grandmother of Bill Cour '38; (accident) mother and father of Ed Aubrey (Dil.); brothers of Tom Reardon (Walsh). Six spec.ints.