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Troubled Waters

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Few things are as scary as being out in the water during a storm. I recall several such frights from when I was young and foolish and went out fishing with my friends no matter what the forecast was like down in Key Largo. When the wind picked up, the waves grew taller and the rain pelted us without mercy, we all got religion. You've never seen such fervor.

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 5, we read that the sick waited by the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, for whenever the angels came and stirred the water, the first one to step in the water was healed. The much loved spiritual "Wade in the Water" makes reference to that when it states that "God's gonna trouble the water". That, of course was also a code, advising the would be runaway slaves to stay in the waters of streams and rivers as they ran towards freedom, for that way they'd be harder to track down by their pursuers. I bet the runaways did a lot of praying while wading in the water.

We've got ourselves some seriously troubled waters in the Gulf right now and I don't foresee anyone wading in it looking for healing. On the contrary, we are all advised to stay away from the water poisoned by crude oil, lest we get sick or die, like the birds and the fish, and the

dolphins. But we are in serious need of healing nonetheless. We need healing from lifestyles that are out of synch with God's creation. We need to repent so that we can be healed from a cultural attitude that demands we consume more, more, more of the Earth's resources, beginning with oil, which goes not only in our gas tanks, but in a myriad goods we probably don't really need.

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is a horrific disaster. If we don't mend our ways and make dramatic changes in our lifestyles, we will be in such trouble that not even the angels may want to rescue us. Because it has been us, not God, who's troubled the water.

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