

STORM STORIES

SURVIVING LIFE'S TEMPESTS

PART ONE: THE KEY TO SURVIVING LIFE'S STORMS

"I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until this violent storm is past."
Psalm 57:1

This week: Matthew 8:23-27 (Also Mark 4:35-41 and Luke 8:22-25)

1. FACTS ABOUT STORMS

• Storms are _____

"When you face trials..." James 1:2

• Storms are _____

"Without warning, a furious storm came up..."

• Storms are _____

"He sends the rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." Matt. 5:45

2. REACTIONS TO STORMS

• I can be filled with _____

"The disciples went and woke Him, saying, 'Lord save us! We're going to drown!'"
vs. 25

• I can be filled with _____

"But Jesus was sleeping." vs. 24

3. HOW TO MAKE IT THROUGH A STORM

• **Remember** _____

"Then He (Jesus) got into the boat and His disciples followed Him." vs. 23

LESSON #1:

*"Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, **I will be with you**, and when you pass through
the rivers, they will not sweep over you!"* Isaiah 43:1-2

• **Relax** _____

*"The disciples said to Him, 'Teacher, **don't You care** if we drown?'"*

Mark 4:38

LESSON #2:

*"Cast all your anxiety on Him because **He cares** for you!"* 1 Peter 5:7

*"The (believer) will not be overthrown by evil circumstances. **God's constant care**
of him will make a deep impression on all who see it. He does not fear bad news, nor
live in dread of what may happen. For he is settled in his mind that **God will take**
care of him. That is why he is not afraid but can **calmly** face his foes."* Ps. 112:6-9
(LB)

• **Rely** _____

*"Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind
died down and it was completely calm."* Mark 4:39

LESSON #3:

*"Sovereign Lord, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and
outstretched arm. **Nothing** is too hard for You."* Jer. 32:17

*"The men were amazed and asked, 'What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the
waves obey him.'"* Matt. 8:27

Resources used in preparation of this message

Stan Toler, *God Has Never Failed Me Yet, But He's Sure Scared Me to Death a Few
Times* (Honor Books)

Rick Warren, *How to Face an Unexpected Crisis*, message tape

Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day meditating on today's topic...

This week's memory verse:

"Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy! I look to you for protection. I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings until this violent storm is past." Psalm 57:1 (NLT)

Monday

Read Matthew 8:23-27. Look back over the notes from last weekend. What "jumped out" at you from the message this past weekend? Which of the types of *storms* we talked about are you experiencing right now?

What was the worst "storm" you have ever experienced?

How did God see you through that event?

How do you tend to respond to storms in your life?

Thank God that He has power over the storms in your life! Bring them to Him specifically in prayer right now.

Tuesday

Read the parallel accounts in Mark 4:35-41 and Luke 8:22-25. Of the three lessons about how to make it through a storm on the previous page, which is the hardest for you to put into practice when a storm hits? Why?

What basic advice about surviving storms do you find in Matthew 7:24-27?

How can you "build your house on the rock"? What steps can you take today?

Spend some time strengthening your foundation on the Rock by memorizing this week's memory verse today. Pray for those you know who are going through storms right now. Ask God to strengthen and uphold them.

Wednesday

Read the exciting description of a storm in Ps. 107:23-32. Does anything surprise you or jump out at you in this passage?

In Hebrew, a key word in this Psalm is the verb "cried out" (verse 28). This same word or a similar-sounding word is used in verses 6, 13, 19, and 28. The writer is saying that the history of Israel is one of people "crying out" to God in their distress... and getting an answer. Has this been a part of your personal history? How?

Why is it sometimes hard to remember to "cry out" to God in our troubles?

Cry out to God right now about your "storms". Thank Him for His care!

Thursday

It's interesting that in Scripture both the wrath of God and the kindness of God are compared to storms. Read Nahum 1:3 and Jeremiah 23:19,20. Why is it important to know that God's justice will inevitably descend on the wicked like a storm? How can this be both alarming and comforting?

Read Zechariah 10:1. In this passage, God's power over storms is linked to His kindness to all. How do you need to ask God for "rain" in your life this spring-- maybe a fresh sense of closeness to Him, or financial help, or relationships that need to blossom?

Bring your request for rain to God the Lord of the Storms today!

Friday

Read 2 Cor. 11:23 through 2 Cor. 12:10. In this passage, Paul talks about the storms of life he's been through. What a list! It's interesting to me that the "storm" that seems to have bothered Paul the most is his "thorn in the flesh", as he calls it, in verse 7. This may have been a physical ailment or a carnal temptation. He seems to have handled larger circumstantial crises with more ease than this physical ailment. Do you find this to be the case in your life too?

What is the bottom-line lesson Paul learned after all of this (verses 9 & 10)?

Thank God today specifically for the strength He has given you in the storms you have been through. List them as Paul does here. What lessons did you learn about God's power in your storms? How has God's strength been made perfect in your weakness?

Saturday

Today, just meditate on God's power to calm the storms in your life. Spend some time remembering that all storms are temporary and God's power is permanent! Please pray for the weekend services. Thanks!