

Understanding Storms

3.29.20

Matthew 14:22-33 NASB Immediately He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away. ²³ After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone. ²⁴ But the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸ Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." ²⁹ And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. ³³ And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"

I. Will we experience storms?

- A. "In this world you will have tribulation. Yet you can be cheerful, for I have overcome the world!" (John 16:33)
- B. In Matthew 8, Jesus was awakened during a storm. He asked, "Why are you afraid, and of such little faith?" The inference was that we should not be surprised when we experience storms for God will take care of us. (Matthew 8:23-27)
- C. The testimony of Paul was one of literal and spiritual storms. (2 Corinthians 11:25)

II. When will we experience storms?

- A. When we are out of God's will
 - 1. Israel and the former and latter rains
 - a. **Leviticus 26:1-13 NASB** You shall not make for yourselves idols, nor shall you set up for yourselves an image or a sacred pillar, nor shall you place a figured stone in your land to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God. ² You shall keep My sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary; I am the Lord. ³ If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out, ⁴ then I shall give you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit. ⁵ Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land. ⁶ I shall also grant peace in the land, so that you may lie down with no one making you tremble. I shall also eliminate

harmful beasts from the land, and no sword will pass through your land. ⁷ But you will chase your enemies and they will fall before you by the sword; ⁸ five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall before you by the sword. ⁹ So I will turn toward you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will confirm My covenant with you. ¹⁰ You will eat the old supply and clear out the old because of the new. ¹¹ Moreover, I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. ¹² I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people. ¹³ I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt so that you would not be their slaves, and I broke the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

2. **Jonah 1:1-4 KJV** Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. ³ But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. ⁴ But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

3. **Isaiah 48:18 KJV** O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea

B. When folks near us are out of God's will:

1. Paul

a. **Acts 27:9-11** When considerable time had passed and the voyage was now dangerous, since even the fast was already over, Paul began to admonish them, ¹⁰ and said to them, "Men, I perceive that the voyage will certainly be with damage and great loss, not only of the cargo and the ship, but also of our lives." ¹¹ But the centurion was more persuaded by the pilot and the captain of the ship than by what was being said by Paul.

b. Moses, Joshua, and Caleb - Numbers 13, 14

C. Sometimes storms come when we are in the center of God's will.

1. Matthew 14:22

2. Israel at the Red Sea

III. Why do we experience storms?

- A. It may be for purposes of chastisement. (Deuteronomy 28)
- B. It may be for the benefit of others. (Acts 27, 28)
- C. It may be a demonic attack. (Mark 4:35-41) In this case the storm is rebuked, not merely calmed.
- D. It may be for the purpose of revealing Christ more deeply to us. (Matthew 14 “They worshipped Him”)

IV. What should we do during storms?

- A. Call upon Him.
- B. Focus on peace.
 - 1. “Generally speaking, God will not get you out of the storm until He gets the storm out of you.” — Marvin Gorman
- C. Give God a venue for His Glory to be revealed.