

## August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020, Storm Warning Part 2 in the series 'Ready for Anything'

What were some things from last Sunday's message that resonated with you?

Was there anything you wrestled with?

Have you ever physically been caught in a storm? Describe your experience.

What are some reasons why God might lead you into a storm?

[A: It forces you to decide what you're going to hang on to, where you're going to take shelter, in whom or what are you going to find your security. Also, God reveals his power and goodness to us in the storm. In addition, God sweeps away evil in the storm (more on that later).]

Zechariah 10:1 says **"it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms"** and Nahum 1:3 says, **"His way is in the whirlwind and the storm."** How do verses such as these affect your perspective on the storms of life?

**READ: Matthew 14:22-33**

**22** Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. **23** After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, **24** and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. **25** Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. **26** When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. **27** But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." **28** "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." **29** "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. **30** But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" **31** Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" **32** And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. **33** Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

**Do you think it's significant that Jesus told the disciples to go on ahead of him? He could have told them to wait so that He could have been there with them the entire time.**

Answer: If He had been physically with them the entire time, the disciples might not have needed to exercise their trust in God. Jesus also would not have had to appear to them on the water.

**When Peter cries "Lord, save me!", Jesus immediately reaches down to catch him. How does this affect your understanding of Jesus in your own storms of life?**

**Why do you think Jesus says to Peter "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" *after* saving Him and not before?**

Answer: Could be many reasons. Maybe Jesus wants to explain to Peter why he began to sink. Maybe Jesus wants to show Peter that even when he starts to doubt, he can still call out to Jesus and cling to him

during the storm for refuge/rescue. Maybe Jesus wants to ensure that the next time Peter requires faith and lack of doubt, he can look back on a time that showed him Jesus is worthy of his trust and faith.

### READ Nahum 1:3, 7-8

The LORD is slow to anger but great in power;  
the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.  
His way is in the whirlwind and the storm,  
and clouds are the dust of his feet.

The LORD is good,  
a refuge in times of trouble.  
He cares for those who trust in him,  
<sup>8</sup> but with an overwhelming flood  
he will make an end of Nineveh;  
he will pursue his foes into the realm of darkness.

#### What is the purpose of the storm according to these verses?

Answer: To draw his children closer to him and be a refuge for them, while at the same time, sweeping away evil and all those who continue to practice it.

### READ: Matthew 7:24-27

<sup>24</sup> “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup> But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup> The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Jesus spoke about the coming judgment we will all invariably face.

Everyone builds a house and will face storms. Here we are taught that the potentially life-saving variable is the foundation on which our house is built. **Unpack this metaphor.**

#### According to Matthew 7:24-27, how can we be ready for anything?

Have you or anyone you know been able to put all of the words of Jesus Sermon on the Mount into practice? If not, does that mean it's inevitable that our “house” will “fall with a great crash?”

What does Jesus' name literally mean?