

Are You Ready For The Storm?

In this sermon **Are You Ready For The Storm**, the Bible says that in this life we will have tribulation. I'm glad it goes on to say but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world but remember it does say that we will have tribulation.

The Bible says that man's days upon the earth are few and full of trouble. **We will have difficulties, troubles, trials, hard times and problems.**

Matthew 8:23-27 - Wind and Wave Obey Jesus - ²³ Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. ²⁵ Then His disciples came to *Him* and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!"

²⁶ But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. ²⁷ So the men marveled, saying, "**Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?**"

I'm preaching this morning "Are you ready for the storm?"

When American billionaire Larry Ellison, co-founder, and CEO of Oracle Corp., won the fabled 725-mile Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race in 1999, **he and his crew could not find it in their hearts to celebrate.**

They began their race in his 80-foot-long boat, the Sayonara. Although the race began under sunny skies, ***a ferocious storm rose while the boats were in open water***, with 90 mile per hour winds hurling 35-foot waves at the boats.

Some 50 sailors, many injured, had to be rescued by helicopter. **Six boats** were abandoned or sank, and **four men** perished. **Two more** are missing and presumed dead.

Race organizers say their investigation **will focus on** whether the crews were **sufficiently informed about the bad weather**, which was forecast, but which **many competitors obviously underestimated.**

"Are you ready for the storm?"

What I want each one of you here today to understand is that – **We will all face storms in our life.**

There is not a person here today that will never face a difficult time in their life.

John 16:33 - ³³ I have told you this, so that you might have peace in your hearts because of me. **While you are in the world, you will have to suffer.** But cheer up! **I have defeated the world.**

- **The Bible says that in this life we will have to suffer.**
- Glad it goes on to say, **be of good cheer for I have defeated the world.**

The Bible says that man's days upon the earth are few and full of trouble.

- **We will have: Difficulties – Troubles – Trials - Hard times – Problems.**

BUT, “Are you ready for the storm?”

- **What I want you to know today is, the clouds will gather.**
- **The wind will always blow against your house.**
- **The storms will always rage against your life.**

Nothing in this life will ever come easy to you. But it will be a struggle everyday of your life to survive.

- **If you're going to walk with God, you're going to work at it.**
- **If you want a good marriage, you're going to have to work at it.**
- **If you're going to have a family that stays together it will happen because **you put some effort into it.****
- **If you desire for your children to grow up to love the Lord, you have to invest some time into them. **Teaching them principles from God's word.****
- **You often must fight for everything you get in life.**
- **God wants to walk by your side through the difficulties of life.**

In your marriage relationship with your spouse, it will be a struggle, if you are going to survive. With over fifty percent of marriages failing today!

There is a God that wants to be at the very center of your marriage relationship. He will help you in your marriage if you let him.

In your family, if your kids are going to serve the Lord it will be a fight to save them from this godless and perverse society.

There is a God that wants to help you as a parent steer your kid's mind in the right direction. Family devotions – **teach your children -**

Philippians 4:8 - Meditate on These Things - ⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

If I want them to think like that, I've got to invest my time in them.

In your walk with God, it will be a fight to the end.

- If you make it to Heaven, it will be because you refused to give up.
- It will be because you fought the good fight of faith.
- It will be because you were ready to face the storms of life.

There is an adversary that wants to do you in, wants to destroy you.

- He is against you. He doesn't want you to live for God.
- He doesn't want you to have a relationship with God.
- He is content to let you sit on a church pew and never do anything for God.

There is a God that is for you today!!!

- If God be for us than who can be against us.
- There is a God that is working things out for your good today.

God wants you to make it! “Are you ready for the storm?”

Before we make it to Heaven there will be storms that we will have to endure.

Remember last week, The Coffee Bean, it endured the same Adversity...

1 Peter 1:6-7 - ⁶ On that day you will be glad, even if you have to go through many hard trials for a while. ⁷ Your faith will be like gold that has been tested in a fire. And these trials will prove that your faith is worth much more than gold that can be destroyed. They will show that you will be given praise and honor and glory when Jesus Christ returns.

Definition of ADVERSITY – Difficulties and misfortunes!

1 Peter 4:12-13,14,16 - Suffering for Being a Christian - ¹² Dear friends, don't be surprised or shocked that you are going through testing that is like walking through fire. ¹³ ***Be glad for the chance to suffer as Christ suffered. It will prepare you for even greater happiness when he makes his glorious return.***

4:14 - Count it a blessing when you suffer for being a Christian. This shows that God's glorious Spirit is with you.

4:16 - Don't be ashamed to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God that you belong to him.

- Again, Peter recalls Jesus' words:

Matthew 5:11 - God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me.

Jesus said to rejoice when we are persecuted...

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Matthew 8:23-24 - Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. ²⁴ And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep.

- In our scripture text it says that a great tempest arose.

Matthew 8:23-24 CEV - ²³ After Jesus left in a boat with his disciples, ²⁴ **a terrible storm suddenly struck the lake**, and waves started splashing into their boat. Jesus was sound asleep.

- **A great storm arose** while they were in the boat going to the other side.
- They were sailing along **with perfect weather and all of a sudden, “BAM,” the storm hits.**

Have you ever felt like the disciples felt that day?

Your life was progressing along nicely – and then all of the sudden “BAM” the storm hits your life.

- The **breath** is knocked out of you. You knocked off your feet!!!
- The **waves break over you.** You hardly know **what hit you!!!**
- **You look to God** and say **“Don’t you see what is going on down here?”**

Can’t you tell that I’m drowning? Don’t you care that I’m in trouble?

Matthew 8:24 - says that the ship was **covered** with the waves.

I’m preaching to someone here today that feels just like that.

Your life is **covered with:** Problems, Storms, Difficulties, Sickness, Trials!

I’m preaching to someone today that feels like **the waves of adversity are beating against the sides of your life.**

- Nothing is stable, nothing is grounded but **everything is shaking.**

I’m preaching to someone who feels like, life is full of problems and **you are in jeopardy.**

- Everything seems to be **going wrong.** You say “God **don’t** you care?”
- Just when **I’m living for you,** doing **the right things** in my life.

Don't forget Job and the trial that he went through.

Job 23:8-10 - ⁸ I cannot find God anywhere— in front or back of me,

⁹ to my left or my right. God is always at work, though I never see him.

¹⁰ But he knows what I am doing, and when he tests me, I will be pure as gold.

- Here Job declares his confidence in his integrity and God's justice.
- If God has forgiven and accepted us, we are forgiven indeed.

Remember the trial of Abraham. His whole life was a trial.

Genesis 22:11-14 - ¹¹ But the Lord's angel shouted from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered.

¹² "Don't hurt the boy or harm him in any way!" the angel said. "Now I know that you truly obey God, because you were willing to offer him your only son."

¹³ Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in the bushes. So, he took the ram and sacrificed it instead of his son.

¹⁴ Abraham named that place (*Jehovahjireh*) "The Lord Will Provide." And even now people say, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

- David went through trials, BUT The Lord Provided!!!
- Moses had storms in his life, BUT The Lord Provided!!!
- Elijah had difficult times, """"""
- Jacob faced adversity, """"""
- Peter was tried, """"""
- Joseph sure had his share of hard times, """"""
- Daniel had the lions den, """"""
- The 3 Hebrews had the fiery furnace, """"""
- Jesus had a cross and a lost world, """"""

What am I trying to say this morning?

I'm trying to let you know that there will be storms in your life.

- Storms that will rock you and shake you.
- Storms that will test your faith, bring adversity your way.
- Storms that will knock the breath out of you.

But here is what I really want you to know this morning. Listen close!

The storm will not last forever!

- There will always be storms, but they will not last forever.
- As real as your pain is right now it will one day be gone.
- As real as your problem is right now it will one day be taken care of.

Romans 8:28 - ²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

More Than Conquerors - Romans 8:31-39 - What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? **No one.** Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵ **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶ **As it is written:** “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ **No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.** ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Four questions:

1. **If God be for us** who can be against us? **No one**
2. **Who shall** lay anything to the charge of God's elect? **No one, it is God that justifies.**
3. **Who is he** that condemns? **No one, it is Jesus that intercedes for us.**
4. **Who shall** separate us from the love of God. **No one and nothing.**

CLOSE: LET'S STAND TOGETHER

I wonder this afternoon with every head bowed and every eye closed ***is there anyone in the sanctuary going through a storm right now?***

Matthew 8:26 - He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

- You need to **speak to your problem today and command it to go away.**
- You're not commanding God **but your problem.**

No matter how violent the storm may be, there never has been one that has lasted forever.

- What I want you to know today is that ***the clouds will always gather.***
- ***The wind will always blow*** against your house.
- ***The storms will always rage*** against your life.
- ***Nothing in this life*** will ever come easy to you.
- But ***it will be a struggle everyday*** of your life to survive.
- **If** you are going to **walk with God**, you are going to have to work at it