



Jesus told us storms will come to our lives. If He hadn't told us that, we would be easy prey for the people who tell us that if we love the Lord and our faith is big enough, we'll be storm-free. Folks, that is a lie—it's a false gospel that is not supported by Scripture. In fact, Jesus told us very clearly that the storms come to all of us, but the differentiating factor is what our lives are founded upon. If our foundation is strong and in place, when the storms come, we will stand. But if our foundations are inadequate, when the storms come, our lives and all about them will collapse. That should get our attention. Let's look at some scriptural truths that can "stormproof" our lives from the book of Matthew.

MATTHEW 10:1–42

¹ He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Acts 10:34–35 ³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."

****Describe some of the ways you see God engaged in your life or in the life of someone you know.**

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

"Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷ As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. ⁹ Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; ¹⁰ take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.

¹¹ "Whatever town or village you enter, search for some worthy person there and stay at his house until you leave. ¹² As you enter the home, give it your greeting. ¹³ If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴ If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. ¹⁵ I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town."

PERSECUTION

¹⁶ "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles.

¹⁹ "But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time, you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³ When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

²⁴ "A student is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. ²⁵ It is enough for the student to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!"

****Share a time where you allowed a fear of persecution to affect your actions. What was the result?**

NO FEAR

²⁶ "So **do not be afraid of them**. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed or hidden that will not be made known. ²⁷ What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. ²⁸ **Do not be afraid** of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹ “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.
³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. ³¹ **So don’t be afraid**; you are worth more than many sparrows.
³² Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. ³³ But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.”

Hebrews 2:15 ... and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

****Pastor Allen said, “treat fear like a person without a body.” How does that change how you see and understand fear? How does it change how you pray against fear?**

****Pray the application prayer below as a group, renouncing the spirit of fear:**

APPLICATION

I renounce the spirit of fear. Through the blood of Jesus, I have been delivered out of the hand of the enemy. Satan has no place in me, no power over me through the blood of Jesus. My mind and my emotions are at peace; God is my protection and my deliverer. When I am afraid, I will trust in the Lord, and I will see His deliverance. Amen.

Proverbs 22:4 Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.

NOT PEACE BUT A SWORD

³⁴ **“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth.** I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.

³⁷ “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; ³⁸ and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

****Share a time when the Lord called you to share the truth about Jesus with others. What were some of your greatest concerns / fears? What encourages you to push past your fear and be more intentional?**

REWARDS

⁴⁰ “He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. ⁴¹ Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. ⁴² And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.”

*Matthew 16:24–27 ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then **he will reward each person according to what he has done.**”*

****Name some benefits and rewards that come from living a godly life.**

PRAYER

¹¹ Who knows the power of your anger? For your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you. ¹² **Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.** ¹³ Relent, O Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. ¹⁶ May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. ¹⁷ May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. *Psalms 90:11–17*