

## **Are You Prepared for the Hurricane Season?**

*“A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 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 4:37 & 39*

As most of us who reside in the state of Florida know, the hurricane season runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup> and the month of May should be a time of preparation. History teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane disasters. By knowing your vulnerability and what actions you should take, you can reduce the effects of a hurricane disaster.

This principle works also in the Christian life. We could say that our whole life is a “hurricane season” because we could get hit by the ‘storms of life’ which very often are unpredictable. I know of a very Christian family that has experienced “storm” after “storm” recently. The wife lost her parents in a short period of time. Then, one of their children was diagnosed with leukemia and lately the husband was laid off. What amazes me is their strong faith in Jesus Christ. They have shared with me that what they have learned in church, plus their personal Bible reading and prayer time, have been instrumental in the strengthening of their faith to face those challenges of life. The lesson we learn from them is that we need to be spiritually prepared for the storms of life that are going to come our way.

In the passage quoted above, we see Jesus and his disciples getting into a ship to sail across the Lake of Galilee. And while they were sailing, Jesus and his disciples were met with a furious storm that rocked the ship back and forth, and up and down. Their worst fears became a reality. This storm is a beginning of the difficulties Christ said His disciples would undergo. Storms and the ocean are frightening because they can place us at great peril. The power of the wind, of lightning, of waves, is greater than any man. The depths of the ocean and the power of its waves inspired a special fear in the people of the Ancient Near East. Storms and the sea represented to them the cosmic forces of evil and their root in Satan and his demons. The Canaanites believed Yam was the god of the sea, and that there was a serpent-like sea monster named Rahab who was a picture of the power of Yam. But Yahweh has shown throughout history that He is the true God of the sea, and He demonstrated this when Jesus calmed the winds and the waves.

Now, there is a lesson for us to learn from this passage of Scriptures. The lesson that you can learn is that even if Jesus Christ is the head of your life, and your Savior and Lord, that does not mean that you are exempt from having some storms in your life. The disciples had Jesus in the ship with them, yet they sailed into a great sea storm. In the same way, you too, will face some storms in your life. But there is a sweet relief in knowing that no matter how great the storm is, Jesus will be right there by your side, and He is able to handle your storms.

The same power that calms the sea calms the tumults Christians face. God can calm our fears through faith in Jesus Christ because He is our Creator. Psalm 65:7 says He is the one who by His almighty power both "stills the roaring of the seas" and "the tumult of the peoples." Jesus saves us from both the perils we face and the fears they bring. The anchor we can cling to is God’s promise given us in Baptism that He will be with us forever. The waters of Baptism can do away with the tumultuous waters that rock our lives.

So, while you get ready for the hurricane season, think about how ready you are spiritually, when the “bad weather” comes. God has given us the tools we need in order to face the storms that will come to us. May the Lord Jesus Christ be there for you to calm the storms of your life. Amen.

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