

Storms Series - Today #5 – Storm Warning

Matthew 24:36-44

This is our final session on “*Storms*”.

“Storms” are both literal and a metaphor for times of danger, testing, trouble and difficulty.

God has taught us through Job, Jonah, Jesus and the disciples.

Today: **Storm Warning**

With deadly accuracy, more than a weather forecast, **it is prophecy: tomorrow’s headlines revealed to us today.**
A Storm Is Coming. Will we be ready?

I. The Speaker. (Context)

Who

When

What – The future- What, when...

i.e. last week- there is something in us that knows the need to be ready for what it to come...

II. The Substance Of “Warnings”

A. What they are not – Real, real-life warnings: **not judgmental, opinionated, personal**

B. What they are: Genuine Warnings are **notifications of real, present dangers or perils**

C. Why: - Purpose for warnings: ***There is something to fear!***

General: Even in a total secular context –

– A benevolent effort to protect or prevent harm

Jesus/God: (which is reflected in the general): Infinite Love In Action!

God never intended for us to lie in fear, bound...

In Eden – one of the first results of sin- they were afraid and hid!

Jesus's warnings were graphic, brutal and scary.

The dire danger we are in is indicated in

- the fact of God's warnings
- the seriousness displayed
- the consistent repetition

The warnings of God, of Scripture, are ***all given to protect, to prevent harm; for our good!***

More, ***They are expressions of God's infinite love!***

- He ***loved us so much that He explained*** what our hearts already know.
- His warnings are evidence of a ***love great enough to deal with the frightening and horrifying.***
- He loved us so much that ***not only did He warn us, He provided a way – the way – for us to face the storms of life, of sin, of eternity.***

Even in our text Jesus is nearing the end of His journey.

He would suffer the storm of our sin and the unquenchable fire of judgement so that we might be saved and safe forever!

III. The Symbol – Metaphor – (or actually – “simile” using like/as)

A. An historical doomsday event:

“As it was... Noah... flood came”

Devastating

Warnings issued through Noah for 120 years!

An incredible means of safety provided! Ark. Big enough. Strong enough.

The sobering results:

All who heeded the warning and prepared – saved.

All who ignored and rejected, perished.

B. The Storm warning (the future forecast/prophecy)

“So Shall also the coming of the Son of Man be”

Sensational

“one taken, the other left”

Counterintuitive/Illogical –

- How? Doesn't make sense
- Never happened before

Purpose:

- **The love of God** helping us see and know and “Be ready”
Ready to *live*.
Ready *to leave*.
Ready *for life that will never end despite the challenges to come!*
- **Protection:**
“not have suffered his house to be broken up...”
“Blessed is that servant”

Peter bridged the two so there is no possibility of misunderstanding –

2 Peter 3

5. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6. Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

IV. Storm Warnings

There is so much- a lot controversial, a lot we don't know. Will focus on just the basics- what we do know.

Words like "watch", "take heed",

A. Houses broken up.

Some taken.

Some left.

Some suffering.

Some blessed.

Be ye also ready!

B. Here on earth.

If there is a holy God, Who is just, right, the source of all good, how do you think He views our arrogance, defiance, rebellion, evil...?

Nahum 1

3. The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: **the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm**, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

6. **Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him.**

7. The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

8. But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.

Revelation 6

12. And I beheld..., and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

13. And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

14. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.
15. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;
16. And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:
17. For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

These are glimpses of what life will be like here... maybe soon. But that is nothing compared to what happens after.

C. Hell forever.

John 3

16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not **perish**, but have everlasting life.
17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
18. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is **condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Jesus- Mat 18

8. Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be **cast into everlasting fire.**
9. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having **two eyes to be cast into hell fire.**

Revelation 14

10. *The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and **he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone...***

11. ***And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night...***

Revelation 20

11. ***And I saw a great white throne,** and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

12. ***And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God;** and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

13. *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

14. ***And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.***

15. ***And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.***

Why do you think Jesus came? Warned us? Called us? Died for us and suffered the storm of our sin on the cross?!!

Why do we... do what we do?

Our kids.

Our grandkids.

Our neighbors.

The world.

WHEN STORM WARNINGS ARE GIVEN –

Preparations for the future kick in

Plans change

Priorities readjust!

For God so loved...

That is why He came.

That is why He told us.

That is why He is speaking right this minute!

Live. Live now. Live fully. Live abundantly. Live ready.