

SECURITY IN THE STORM #6

Withstanding the Storms of Life

Part 3

I want to conclude our series on “Security in the Storm” with Part 3 of our message on “Withstanding the Storms of Life”.

To “withstand” means to remain undamaged or unaffected by; to stand or hold out against; to resist successfully.

Jesus taught us how to withstand the storms of life at end of His famous Sermon on the Mount, recorded in Matthew 5-7.

Matthew 7:24-25

"Therefore whoever *hears these sayings* of Mine, and *does them*, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

7 SAYINGS WE MUST HEAR AND DO TO WITHSTAND THE STORM

1. Put away anger
2. Put away immorality
3. Put away showy religion
4. Put away unforgiveness
5. Put away a critical spirit
6. Put away wrong conceptions of God
7. Put away wrong conceptions of salvation

I. The Final 3 Sayings of Jesus That We Must Hear And Do!

A. Put Away A Critical/Judgmental Spirit

Matthew 7:1-2 NIV

"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

1. Jesus is not forbidding us *ever* to judge!

John 7:24

Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

- We must judge between right and wrong; good and evil
- In this same sermon Jesus tells us to judge prophecy, and prophets
- He tells us not to cast our pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6)

2. There is righteous judgment. But the warning "Judge not" refers to sitting in the seat of judgment of the hearts and motives of others.

Matthew Henry

We must not judge the hearts of others, nor their intentions, for it is God's prerogative to try the heart, and we must not step into his throne; nor must we judge of their eternal state, nor call them hypocrites, reprobates, and castaways; that is stretching beyond our line.

a. Jesus' "Judge not" warns us not to set ourselves up as God! Not to think that others must live up to the standards that we have set up for them.

Matthew Henry

"We must not sit in the judgment-seat, to make our word a law to all others. We must not judge our brother, that is, we must not speak evil of him."

James 4:11-12 (Apologetics Study Bible)

Don't criticize one another, brothers. He who criticizes a brother or judges his brother criticizes the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Who indeed?

3. Next to unforgiveness, nothing is more damaging to the church than people who operate in a "critical spirit"!

- a. They sit in private and judge other people in the church; they measure others by their own ideas of how they should act.
- b. They see think they have special gift of 'discernment' but it's really a critical spirit, a judgmental spirit.

4. Those that judge and criticize others never realize that they have a greater problem within themselves that is worse than the flaw that they think they have found in others.

Matthew 7:3-5

And why do you look at the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not consider the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the splinter from your eye'; and look, a log is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

a. So you think you see a 'splinter' in someone else's eye? But you can't seem to see the 'log' that is in your own eye. The pagan Roman poet Horace point out this problem in human nature.

Horace, Roman Poet, (65-27B.C.)

"When you can so readily overlook your own wickedness, why are you more clear-sighted than the eagle in spying out the failings of your friends?"

b. Here is God's message to the judgmental, critical spirit: "Be as quick to criticize yourself as you are quick to criticize others and you will come to know yourself as well as you think you know others.

Adam Clarke

"When we shall have as much zeal to correct ourselves, as we have inclination to reprove and correct others, we shall know our own defects better than now we know those of our neighbor."

Matthew Henry

"Our own sins ought to appear greater to us than the same sins in others. You should reflect that perhaps the fault of which you complain in others, might, on a strict examination, be discovered in yourself."

c. If I have a fault-finding spirit, I can see the fault in others but I can't see the same fault in myself.

d. Testimony: I remember times when I would correct my children on a fault, and I would hear the Lord say, "Are you listening?"

- You are so selfish
- You are stubborn!
- Why are you so disobedient?

5. Why is this such a big deal? Because judging and criticizing others will bring judgment and criticism back onto our own heads! Read it again in another Bible translations...

Matthew 7:1-3 NLT

"Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

Matthew 7:1-2 The Message Bible

Don't pick on people, criticize their faults, or jump on their failures—unless of course, you want the same treatment. That critical spirit has a way of boomeranging.

Adam Clarke

"He who is severe on others will naturally excite their severity against himself. When we suffer false statements that have damaged our reputation it could well be the just reward of those judgments which we have dealt out to others."

6. I have known many Christians whose lives loaded with one relational crisis after another. They never stop to think that they may be eating what they've been dishing out. Some say...

- a. "I feel so misjudged!" Maybe you have been misjudging others?
- b. Or, "I know I upset people sometime; but they just don't know my heart." Maybe you have criticized people when you really didn't know *their* heart.

7. How people treat you is the result of how you treat people.

Matthew Henry

"If we presume to judge others, we may expect to be ourselves judged. He who usurps the bench, shall be called to the bar; he shall be judged of men; and none are more criticized than those who are the most critical."

Matthew Henry

"No mercy shall be shown to the reputation of those that show no mercy to the reputation of others. Yet the worst of it is that they shall be judged of God; from him they shall receive the greater condemnation."

Oh, how we need a humble, gentle spirit when we set out to correct others

Matthew Henry

"If we be modest and charitable in our criticism of others, and decline judging them, but rather judge ourselves, we shall not be judged of the Lord. In the

same way God will forgive those that forgive their brethren; so he will not judge those that will not judge their brethren; the merciful shall find mercy.”

8. Do you want mercy when the storms blow? Put away a judgmental, critical spirit and be merciful to others!

B. The 6th Saying of Jesus That We Must Hear and Do: Put Away Wrong Conceptions of God

1. I will dare to say that few things will make your house fall faster in a storm than holding wrong conceptions about God.

A.W. Tozer

“What comes into our minds when we think of God is the most important thing about us. Low views of God destroy (the power of) the Gospel for all who hold them.”

2. What comes into *your* mind when you think of God?

a. A “low view of God” means holding a conception of God that makes Him less than who He really is. Is your God the real God? Or is He a product of your own mind?

Bishop J.C. Ryle

“Beware of manufacturing a God of your own; a God who is all mercy but not just. Such a God is an idol of your own making.”

3. Primarily, there are...

Two False Conceptions of God

- **First: Some people see God as harsh, unloving and angry; a God who is quick to withhold His blessings if we fall short of perfection. But Jesus revealed that God is a good God; that He is our heavenly Father.**

Matthew 7:7-8

7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

a. Jesus tells us that God is ready to answer our prayers!

Matthew 7:9-11

9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

b. If we see God as evil, or angry, or mean, we will not be able to pray in faith!

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

c. Notice: faith is not just believing that God IS, but believing that God is GOOD! He is a ‘rewarder’ of those who diligently seek Him!

Rewarder

A remunerator; one who pays wages.

d. We do not seek God for the reward; we come to God because we believe He is a “Rewarder”!

Albert Barnes

“It is not meant here that the desire of the reward is to be the motive for seeking God—but that it is impossible to make an acceptable approach to him unless we have this belief.”

e. We must put away any false conception of God that does not view Him as good! But...

- **The 2nd False Conception of God is that His goodness supersedes His holiness! That God’s “goodness” means that He never chastens His children or pass judgment upon sinners.**

a. Previous generations seem to have stressed the holiness of God and went light on God’s goodness; our modern generations go the other way.

b. Dorothy Sayers, a close friend of the great C.S. Lewis said...

Dorothy Sayers

“It’s been left for our later generations to muffle up the shattering personality of Jesus. We have efficiently clipped the claws of the Lion of Judah, certified Him as ‘meek and mild’, and recommended Him as a household pet for pale pastors and pious old ladies.”

In her book, “Letters to a Diminished Church”, she wrote...

Dorothy Sayers

“If all men are offended by Christ, let them be offended. We do Him little honor by watering down His personality until it wouldn’t offend a fly. Surely it is not the business of men to adapt Christ to men, but to adapt men to Christ.”

c. In our modern day rush to make God more appealing to a pleasure-seeking culture, we tend to forget that the ‘Lamb of God’ is also the ‘Lion of Judah’!

d. We must put away false conceptions of God; on the one hand that He is good or on the other that rob Him of His goodness or His right to judge sins.

C. The 7th Saying of Jesus That We Must Hear and Do: Put Away Wrong Conceptions About Christian Salvation

1. If you want to withstand the storms of life you will need to get rid of any idea that becoming a Christian and living the Christian life is an easy road.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

2. Here we have the genius of Jesus, simplifying life’s choices to 2:

- There is a broad gate that leads to a broad way that leads to destruction and many go that way.
- There is a narrow gate that leads to a narrow way that leads to eternal life and few there be who find it.

3. Over the years I have learned to be cautious about any church, any preacher, or any Gospel message that is popular with most people.

a. I am NOT saying that if a church is big or a minister is popular that means it IS wrong; I AM saying that anything that appears popular to the general population is worthy of examination!

b. Consider the dictionary definition of the word:

“Popular”

Liked, admired or enjoyed by many people; intended to suit the taste of the general public; something accepted by people in general

c. Jesus said that the broad “gate” and the broad “way” of living are popular; many will choose it; but it leads to destruction. He said the way to life is found by “few”.

4. Objection: But wasn't Jesus popular? Was He?

WAS JESUS POPULAR?

- **5,000 followers deserted Him in one day (John 6)**
- **He was not respected in His own hometown (Mark 6)**
- **One of His own betrayed Him for silver (Matthew 26)**
- **In the end, all His disciples deserted Him (Matthew 27)**

5. Jesus was NOT popular and He promised His disciples the same!

John 15:18-20

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.

a. They carried this message into the Book of Acts:

Acts 14:21-22

And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

6. If you want to withstand the storms, put away false conceptions of salvation.

Leonard Ravenhill

“The Christian life is no easy road. To say it smells either of compromise or ignorance of the Christian way, or both. The preachers of the ‘easy road’ do not know their Bible; nor do they cause Satan much trouble.”

III. Conclusion

A. A Most Serious Subject

1. We have looked at a most serious subject:

- Jesus teaches the Sermon on the Mount
- Then He concludes with a series of warnings about how storms reveal whose house falls and whose stands.
- Storms also reveal true and false disciples

Matthew 7:21

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

2. Not everyone who calls Jesus ‘Lord’ is going to make it.

Matthew 7:22-23

Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

a. There are ‘many’ false professors; those who call Jesus Lord but who practice lawlessness lifestyles.

3. The storms of life reveal who’s who. But Jesus is our security in the storm.

John 16:33

These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

NKJV

Offering

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