

Ps.107:23-31 “After the Storm” 4.22.15

Intro. Storms can be a metaphor for difficulties, struggles, and challenges of life.

Not only how we respond in the storms but *after* that matters

Subject: The storms of life

Object: Have an attitude of gratitude to the God who saves

Context: 4 scenarios of peril. Each time God’s people cry out for help & are rescued. Exhort to worship and give thanks.

A. God controls the storms [23-27]

1. How does God use storms in our lives? [23-25]

23Those who go down to the sea in ships, who do business on great waters, **24**They see the works of the LORD, and His wonders in the deep.**25**For He commands and raises the stormy wind, which lifts up the waves of the sea.

a. God brings a storm to correct us: Jonah 1:14-16

b. God allows a storm to demonstrate our faith: Job 1:19

c. God uses storms to draw you close & grow your faith: Ja.1:2-4, Rom. 5:3-4

? *How has God used storms in your life?*

2. How do we react in the storms of life? [26-27]

a. **We feel overwhelmed [26-27]** They mount up to the heavens, they go down again to the depths; their soul melts because of trouble.**27**They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits’ end.

i. Imagine a ship tossed in enormous waves up & down [* Perfect Storm], experienced sailors reeling to and fro, staggering like drunks & at their wits’ end:

b. **We feel afraid [Mark 4:35-41]** Jesus says, “Let’s cross over” then a great storm arose & they thought they would die. Jesus rebuked the storm and their lack of faith.

c. **We feel hopeless [Ac.27:20]** The sailors with Paul lost hope of surviving the storm

d. **How should we react?** Since God is good, He is with us and for us, we should trust, and have peace

B. God delivers us in the storms [28-30]

28Then they cry out to the LORD in their trouble, and He brings them out of their distresses. **29**He calms the storm, so that its waves are still. **30**Then they are glad because they are quiet; so He guides them to their desired haven.

1. People cry out to God In the midst of trouble [28]

a. Repeated theme of Psalm107 [v.6,13,19]

i. Judges and 7 cycles of oppression re rebellion then cry out and God delivers

? *What are some struggles that people cry out to God about?*

2. **God brings people out of distress and calms storms [28-30]** God is the one who delivers us and calms the storms ... it is God not us.

- a. He is the one who guides us to the desired destination [30] ie. safe harbors
- i. **Noah's ark** had no rudder not a design defect, God was guiding [**Ac.27** re Paul
? What are some ways that God has delivered you?

3. People respond with joy once the storm has ended [30]

- a. the immediate response to the end of the storm is gladness
- i. cf. **James 1:2-4** Joy should be our response at the start, during and end.

C. God wants us to be grateful after the storm [31] Oh, that *men* would give thanks to the LORD *for His goodness, And for His wonderful works* to the children of men!

1. Thank God for His goodness and wonderful works to us

a. Reflection: In what ways is God good? How has God been good to you?

- 2. Unfortunately the psalmist needs to repeat the exhortation to give thanks [1,8,15,21]
- 3. The tendency is to forget to give thanks and/or the attitude of gratitude is short-lived
- a. Jesus and the 10 lepers [Lu.17]
- b. Communion [Lu.22]

? Why is it challenging to give thanks "after the storm"?

- i. reflection: How can you express thanks to God tonight (and tomorrows)

Discussion Qs

- 1. How has God used storms in your life?**
- 2. What are some struggles that people cry out to God about?**
- 3. What are some ways that God has delivered you?**
- 4. Why is it challenging to give thanks "after the storm"?**