

**Matthew 8:23-27**  
*Navigating The Storms of Life*  
February 3, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

**Intro**

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**Lesson #1 - Storms come to everyone.**

Brothers, count it all joy *when* you encounter various trials. (**James 1:2**)

**Exodus 9:6** - The next morning all the livestock of the Egyptians died, but the Israelites didn't lose a single animal.

**Exodus 9:25-26** - Throughout Egypt hail struck everything in the fields--both people and animals; it beat down everything growing in the fields and stripped every tree. The only place it didn't hail was the land of Goshen, where the Israelites were.

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**Lesson #2 - Storms come for a reason.**

*Expert wrote: Hurricanes can be devastating, with winds up to 150 miles an hour, torrential rains, and glaring lightning. Yet, they're tremendously valuable. They dissipate a large percentage of the oppressive heat which builds up at the equator, and they're indirectly responsible for much of the needed rainfall in North and*

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*South America. Scientists today all agree: hurricanes actually do more good than harm.*

**Deut. 8:14-16** - The LORD your God brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful wilderness, that thirsty, waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He gave you water from the rock! He fed you with manna in the wilderness, a food unknown to your ancestors. He did this to humble you and test you *for your own good*.

**James 1:2-4** - Brothers, count it all joy when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work *so that you may be mature and complete*.

**Romans 5:3-4** - We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance and perseverance produces *character*.

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**Lesson #3 - Jesus is with you in the storm.**

**Mark 4:38** - He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. They awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, *don't You care* that we're perishing?"

**Danny Deaube had two children, Stephen and Holly die due to a rare liver disease. He wrote:** *"There are some things we learn on stormy seas that we never learn on calm smooth waters. The 'God of the Storm' has something to teach us, and His love always drives His actions."*

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**Lesson #4 - Call on Jesus in your storm.**

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**Lesson #5 - Rely on God's promises in your storm.**

**Romans 8:28** - All things work together for good to those who love the Lord.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** - Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.

**Philippians 4:13** - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**Jeremiah 29:11** - "I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope."

**Deuteronomy 31:8** - The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Don't be afraid and don't be discouraged."

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**Lesson #6 - Jesus will calm the storm.**

**Peter wrote:** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you've been grieved by various trials. (**1 Peter 1:6**)

**2 Cor. 4:17** - Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

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**Lesson #7 - Storms help us to see God more clearly.**

**Jonah 1:4-6** - There was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. The mariners were afraid... But Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.

**Jonah 1:10** - Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?"

**Jonah 1:11-12** - Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?"--for the sea was growing more tempestuous. And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you."

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**Jonah 1:15-17** - So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly... Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish *three days and three nights*.

**Jesus said:** "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth...and now *one greater than Jonah is here.*" (Mt. 12:40-41)

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