

The Storms Of Life

No. 59

Introduction.

- I. Years ago Miss M.A. Baker wrote this beautiful and meaningful hymn entitled, “Master, the Tempest Is Raging”.

Master, the tempest is raging!
The billows are tossing high!
The sky is o’er-shadowed with blackness,
No shelter or help is nigh;

Torrents of sin and of anguish
Sweep o’er my sinking soul;
And I perish! I perish! dear Master
O hasten, and take control.

Carest Thou not that we perish?
How canst Thou lie asleep,
When each moment so madly is threat’ning
A grave in the angry deep?

Master, the terror is over,
The elements sweetly rest;
Earth’s sun in the calm lake is mirrored,
And heaven’s within my breast;

Master, with anguish of spirit
I bow in my grief today;
The depths of my sad heart are troubled -
O waken and save I pray;

Linger, O blessed Redeemer!
Leave me alone no more;
And with joy I shall make the blest harbor,
And rest on the blissful shore.

- II. This beloved hymn is based on an actual event in the life of the Master recorded in Mark the fourth chapter.

- A. Once Jesus was in a boat on the Sea of Galilee with His disciples. There arose a great storm of wind and the waves were beating against the boat and the boat was filling with water. Jesus was asleep, but the disciples awoke Him and said, “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” Jesus stood and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, “Peace, be still.” The wind ceased and there was a great calm. And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?” (Mk. 4:35-41).
- B. Jesus stilled the great storm on the Sea of Galilee. He also has the power to still the tempestuous storms of life. Life is not all sunshine and roses. Even being a Christian does not inoculate a person against difficulties and problems. There are days of raging storms in the live of the most faithful. Jesus can and will help us conquer these storms and find peace and happiness.

I. **Storm Of Temptation** - We must endure the storm of temptation.

- A. Each one of us is bombarded with strong, powerful temptations. Satan tempts us each day to give in to sin and go his way. It is not easy to resist the raging storm of temptation, especially when Satan comes to us in weak moments. In fact, we cannot overcome temptations alone. We must have help - the help of the Savior.
- B. We can be victorious, we can overcome by trusting in Christ the Captain of our salvation. He was victorious over temptations and He knows exactly how to help us over them. (Heb. 4:15; 2:18).

1. Too many Christian are like **the little old lady who was making her first ocean voyage**. The

ship was caught in a violent storm and the ship was tossing from one side to the other. The Captain came into the lounge where the passenger had gathered. The little old lady rushed up to him and said, "Oh, Captain, are we going to make it all right?" The captain, trying his best to reassure her, said, "Well, madam, our engines have gone out, the radar is on the blink, and we don't know where we are. We'll just have to trust the Lord." The little lady clasped her hands and exclaimed, "Oh, no! Has it come to that?"

2. Unfortunately this lady is typical of too many who claim to follow Christ.
 - a. They have little faith in the Lord. They try to overcome temptation by their own power.
 - b. The last thing they want to do is to really trust the Lord and depend on His strength. It should be first. (Matt. 6:13; 1 Cor. 10:13; Jas. 4:7, 8).

II. **Storm Of Misfortune** - We must endure the storm of misfortune.

- A. Misfortune is not a respecter of persons. It comes to all of us sooner or later. It may be in the form of sickness or a great financial loss or a great disappointment or the death of a loved one. Whenever it strikes, life is hard to bear. It is easy to be crushed and destroyed with despair.
- B. But Christ can even bring us through the storm of misfortune. He helps us turn our misfortunes into blessings and gives us the strength and purpose to go on and find sunshine and happiness once more.
 1. We need to say as David did. (Psa. 23:4).
 2. When storms come, we should look up to God. (Psa. 121:1-3).
- C. **During World War II a young war-bride lay in an eastern hospital.** Three days before that time she had given birth to a beautiful girl. But her husband was on the West Coast, waiting to go to the Pacific without seeing the baby. This was pretty hard on the young mother. Then her father came to the bedside and brought the heart-breaking piece of news that the doctors feared that the baby would die. The young mother took her father's hand and said, "Daddy, don't grieve, my husband and my baby are in God's hand, and I trust Him completely."
 1. The baby lived and the husband came safely home, but even if this had not happened she was wise in leaving everything to God and Christ. They will bring us through the storm of misfortune.
 2. They make all things, even misfortunes, work together for our good. (Rom. 8:28).

III. **Storm Of Persecution** - We must endure the storm of persecution.

- A. Paul was one who suffered from the storm of persecution.
 1. Here is Paul's description of many of the persecutions and afflictions he experienced. (2 Cor. 11:24-28).

2CO 11:24 Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes.

2CO 11:25 Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night

and a day I have spent in the deep.

2CO 11:26 I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren;

2CO 11:27 I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

2CO 11:28 Apart from such external things, there is the daily pressure upon me of concern for all the churches.

2. Paul indeed suffered much, but in spite of his suffering for Christ he said. (Phil. 4:11, 13).

3. Paul was able to overcome persecution through Christ.

B. Jesus says. (Jn. 15:20; 2 Tim. 3:12).

1. The Bible teaches that all Christians will be persecuted.

2. The world ridicules and sometimes even puts Christians to death because they walk in the light and trust in the Sinless One.

C. Christ will bring us through the storm of persecution. Christ helps us overcome this vicious storm in at least four ways.

1. First, He gives us **strength to endure it**.

2. Second, He tells us **not to fear those who can only harm the temporal house** of our souls. (Matt. 10:28).

3. Third, He tell us that these things **cannot separate us from the love of God**. (Rom. 8:37-39).

4. Fourth, He assure us that eternal life in **heaven awaits those persecuted for doing right**. (Matt. 5:10-12).

Conclusion.

I. Yes, Jesus is able to help us overcome all the storms of life if we will live for Him and seek His help.

A. We must not try to make it alone. We will sink and perish without Christ.

B. He whispers to us all, "Fear not, for I am with you. I will never let the storms of life overcome you." (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).

II. Jesus says. (Matt. 11:28-30).

A. Come to Christ today. He wants to still the storms in your life. He wants to give you sweet peace and eternal life in the Land where there will be no sorrow or tears or pain or death.

B. Come as sing the hymn of invitation.