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Family

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Connect

A Ministry of Victory Baptist Church

How to handle the storms of life.

Luke 8:22-25

Mike Ennis



If things are right with God, everything is right, if your relationship with God is not right, nothing is right no matter what it appears like on the surface. The most important thing in life is a right relationship with God. When that matter is taken care of then things tend to fall into place. If we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness... all...things shall be added unto you. In the context the Lord is saying that if you will seek me first, I will take care of your physical needs but if we consider all the Bible

teaching on the subject everything in life goes better with a good relationship to God.

That is not to say that we will not have problems in life. We can call them the storms of life. We cannot, as Christians, expect to be exempt from the storms of life. We will have them. The difference is how we weather the storms. Our text from Luke provides a beautiful picture of a believer, His Lord, and the storms of life. I want to look at this passage and see how we can handle the storms of life.

I. Expect them. Luke 8:23 (KJV)

²³ But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled *with water*, and were in jeopardy.

The keynote to all this symbolism is given in the incident reported in these verses.

This is very much a picture of life. “The sea was at rest when the disciples took Jesus as he was. As they sailed on the smooth waters the weary Prophet fell asleep. On a sudden down comes the squall—one of those furious hurricanes which sweep across a lake six hundred feet lower than the ocean, with gigantic funnels supplied by deep ravines cut by the action of

(See Storms Page 3)

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AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2019

Wisdom of The World vs The Wisdom of God

by Sheriena McEvers

Bible Wisdom for Today

Do you get your advice from the Bible? Did you know Bible wisdom is God's advice for every situation today? It is timeless. Now that is worth checking out.



Comparing God's wisdom with the wisdom of man is like comparing the wisdom of an elderly wise person with the wisdom of a two-year-old. Somehow, human wisdom does not measure up. It's not that it is bad. Rather, it lacks true truth. Longtime unchanging truth. A truth that you can base your life on. Trustworthy, because it is established by the eternal one who loves us like no one else.

What does the Bible say? What wisdom can we anchor our lives to? Does it cover all life? Yes, both interpersonal and intrapersonal problems. Mental health issues find solutions in the Bible.

God promises freedom for addicts of every kind. A new life is a fact for the born again.

Bible wisdom is not secular

If the wisdom of the Bible does not agree with the experts of the world, it is not the Bible that is wrong. It is the secular experts. Remember this: God created those experts. They didn't create Him. He is from everlasting to everlasting and knows everything.

He knows what the experts wish they knew. Let's put our trust in Him. He is all-wise and loves us completely, even when we don't deserve it. Do we ever? Yet, He loves, always. Every day He invites us to come to the throne of grace through the blood of His Son that we might find help in the time of trouble. (Hebrews 4:16 NKJV)

Understanding the wisdom of the Bible

The human mind cannot comprehend the wisdom of God. But, those who have been born again have the Spirit of God in them and can understand the wisdom of God. His Spirit in us enables us to understand His thoughts, His wisdom, and His ways.

In this time when some church leaders are indicating that some things are no longer sin, or are telling us the Bible is outdated, let's be very careful. Paul warns us in his letter to Timothy about the latter days and how even believers could be deceived. Be careful. Let's not let our human nature and human understanding determine what we will and will not believe.

When you need advice, where do you turn? Friends? Family? Pastor? Psychologist? Is it human-based wisdom or Godly wisdom? Do you have a preference? What if it isn't what you want to hear? So, if we need enlightenment, let's go to the Bible. It will not lead us astray.

(See Wisdom Page 8)

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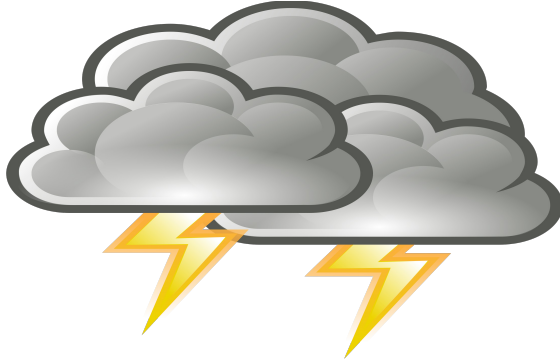
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AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2019

(Storms from Page 1)

wild watercourses. All is changed; there is heard now only the despairing cry, “Master, carest



thou not that we perish?” Such is life: changeful, now the smiling sunshine with the clear blue sky, again the driving cloud and rain, with angry waves breaking over the craft. Job was at rest; his sons and daughters feasting together; he himself, with abundance and peace, fearing God and eschewing evil, when the one terrible day came on which messenger chased messenger, completing a tale of destruction and bereavement. How often does destruction fall as in a moment! The fitful weather of the inland lake is a type of the fitful climate, followed by the rapidly dissolving scenery, of the present time.”[1]

Matthew Henry commenting on this passage said; Those that put to sea in a calm, yea, and at Christ’s word, **must yet prepare for a storm, and for the utmost peril in that storm;** There came down a storm of wind on the lake (v. 23), as if it were there, and nowhere else; and presently their ship was so tossed that it was filled with water, and they were in jeopardy of their lives.^[2]

Many Christians have the wrong expectation when it comes to life. They think that because they know Christ, they will never have to face

difficulties, they will never have any trials; they will never be caught in the storms of life. Those Christians have not taken the first step in handling the storms of life, they do not expect them. Yet they should.

John 16:33 (KJV)

33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Jesus never promised a life exempt from storms.

Psalms 34:19 (KJV)

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Ye shall have tribulation; many are the afflictions of the righteous. Where did we get the idea that to be a Christian is to be exempt from the storms of life? It did not come from Christ or His Word; it comes from our own selfish desires to “have it easy.” What we can expect is grace in the storm. “...be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.” There is no free pass in life. Christians are not exempt from the storms of life. We live in a fallen world. Sin has cursed this world and we are affected by it. Maybe our sin, maybe someone else’s sin, maybe the results of sin in this world. Have the right expectations! Life is tough and then you die. That sounds pessimistic but it is reality. The only good in this world is God and what He gives us. Don’t always expect “smooth sailing” in life. Expect the storms.

(See Storms Page 4)

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(Storms from Page 3)

II. Don't question God in the storm.

Luke 8:22-24 (KJV)

²² Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, **Let us go over unto the other side of the lake.** And they launched forth. ²³ But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled *with water*, and were in jeopardy. ²⁴ And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish.



In Marks account we read, Mark 4:38 (KJV)

³⁸ And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, **Master, carest thou not that we perish?**

Why would they ask that unless they are implying something, they are implying that He does not care? “God why are you allowing this, why do I have to go through this, don't you care?”

This is often what happens to believers when the storms of life break upon them. They begin to question God. They begin to question His love or His control of the situation. They begin to say, “Where is God?” “Why is He sleeping when I am going through this?” Doesn't He care?”

Questioning God is a lack of faith. It is a failure to trust His Word. Jesus had told His disciples in verse 22:

Luke 8:22 (KJV)

²² Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, **Let us go over unto the other side of the lake.** And they launched forth.

Jesus words suggest that they are going to the other side of the lake. Should the disciple been fearful that they would not make it? NO! We rightly emphasize that to be right with God we must obey Him. That is true but we can also add to that, to be right with God we must trust Him. We Jobs wife said, “Curse God and die” He said:

Job 2:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Job 13:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ Though he slay me, **yet will I trust in him:** but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

(See Storms Page 7)

Practical Wisdom

By Steve Yohn

My dad gave me a call from Hollywood the other day. He and my mom were on a 24-hour layover on their way back from Hawaii. The connection wasn't that great, so we didn't talk long. But what he did have time to say struck me. "This place is the same as it's always been—a bunch of foolish people thinking they are wise."



What an absolutely perfect description of our culture! People spend their lives following the wisdom of the world, only to succeed in looking like idiots—if not here, then certainly in the afterlife. What is the key pearl of spectacular, eternity-killing wisdom? It's freedom, baby! Independence, self-sufficiency, looking after #1! Because when you call your own shots, then you are truly free—and what's better than that?

Freedom Leading to Bondage

I Corinthians 3:19 tells us, "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight." Nowhere is this truer than in the area of freedom. The world's wisdom that promotes freedom leads to bondage. Just look at the recent plethora of young Hollywood girls who are

doing their best to destroy their lives in the name of their own personal freedom. The rehab centers of our country never need to be concerned about a lack of business, as long as our society mainstreams this push-it-to-the-limits personal freedom. Unfortunately, when we focus so much on the world's idea of wisdom, we kill off our connection to God's truth.

"So," you may ask, "what's the alternative to freedom? Slavery?" Well...uh...yes, actually. You see, while the world's wisdom that touts personal freedom actually leads to bondage, God's wisdom that pushes bondage actually leads to freedom. There is a true peace and satisfaction that comes from being completely submitted to God's will—knowing you are living in the manner He wants you to live. Then you are free to live the joyful life, the complete life, the free life—the life Jesus describes as "more abundant." (John 10:10)

How to Be a Slave

So, why aren't we all experiencing this abundant life? Because we don't have the first clue about how to be a slave. In our leisurely, back-talking, comfort-chasing, TV-watching, hobby-loving, it's-all-about-me culture, the practical "how-to's" of submission are hard to come by. That's why God has given us His word, complete with a promise that if we ask Him for wisdom, He will give it to us—wisdom that will answer our questions very practically and perfectly.

Read James 1:5-6. This is one of the most encouraging passages in the entire Bible. We have an "in" with Wisdom Himself. But James gives an important caveat to the wisdom-asking. Why is it so important to "believe and not doubt" when asking for wisdom (and try to get beyond just the "wave of the sea" answer)?

(See Practical Wisdom Page 6)

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(Practical Wisdom from Page 5)

Doubting God's Wisdom

Who or what in your life and in your culture may be causing you to doubt that God's wisdom is truly wisdom?

The "without fault" is an interesting addition by James. What do you think he is communicating there?

Take some time today to think through how you have bought into the world's wisdom. It could be relational or financial; it could have to do with your priorities or your rights; it could be anything that goes against the system of loving sacrifice that God has given us in Scripture. Quietly sit and let God bring those things to mind. When He does, confess them and pray for the strength to change that mindset. Then pray sincerely for God's wisdom to permeate your heart and mind. I can guarantee you, that's a prayer He's going to answer.

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The Importance of the Cross

by Ian Coates

We will all eventually die. If the Bible is correct, there is an afterlife with judgment, heaven and hell. What is our plan to reach heaven?

Many say: 'Well, I'm a relatively good person – when I die I'll just hope for the best. Others add: 'I've been baptized, had communion, plus I give regularly to the church and charities – I think I've ticked all the boxes.'

It's ironic that many people, including many Christians, think getting to heaven depends on what they do. When asked about the relevance of Jesus Christ and the Cross, most scratch their heads; they don't see a connection between their going to heaven and what Christ did on the Cross. Many people consider the cross simply a symbol of



Christianity – a story told at Easter how a good man was wrongly crucified and miraculously rose from the dead.

Fact is, if we could earn our way to heaven by good deeds or religious rituals, Christ died needlessly on the Cross. If we could save ourselves by our works, there would be no point for Jesus to die for our salvation (John 3:16).

The Bible states: we can never be good enough to save ourselves (Eph. 2:8-9) – our works are filthy rags in God's sight (Isaiah 64:6) – that we need to be born-again (John 3:3) – and become a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

To enter the kingdom of heaven we need to have God's perfect righteousness. This is the whole point of Jesus being crucified on our behalf. If we accept the gift of salvation by believing in Christ we receive His perfect righteousness and are instantly adopted into the family of God. Alternately, if we are hoping our good deeds or religious rituals will save us; sadly, we are in for a very rude shock. We need the Cross. Christ is our salvation – He is the only door and way into heaven.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.

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(Storms from Page 4)

Job said, “I am not going to accuse God of wrongdoing, I am going to trust Him.” When we face the storms of life, we cannot question God we must trust Him.

III. In the storms of life have faith in God.

The problem that the disciples faced was not the storm around them it was the unbelief in them! If everything is right with God everything is right. The storms of life are not the problem. The problem is a lacking relationship with the master of the storms! Have faith. God controls the storm.



Luke 8:24 (KJV)

24 And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

This is an amazing picture. I don't think that the Lord's rebuke of them was for waking Him up or asking Him for help, He wants us to do that. It was for their panic and accusations. They did not need to panic, Jesus wasn't panicked, He

was calmly sleeping while the storm raged. What they forgot was the love and power of God. And considering all that these disciples would be called upon to pass through in his cause, remembering the severity of the trial of their faith, it was surely well that, in addition to many other proofs of their Lord's Divinity, they should be able to recall this scene upon the lake, and be assured that he whom the winds and the waves obeyed was the Christ of God indeed.

Master, the tempest is raging
The billows are tossing high
The sky is o'ershadowed with blackness
No shelter or help is nigh
Carest thou not that we perish?
How canst thou lie asleep
When each moment so madly is threatening
A grave in the angry deep?

The winds and the waves shall obey thy will
Peace, be still, Peace, be still
Peace, be still, Peace, be still
Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea
Or demons, or men, or whatever it be
No water can swallow the ship where lies
The Master of ocean and earth and sky
They all shall sweetly obey thy will
Peace, peace, be still

God can deliver us, God can preserve us, or He can give peace in the storm, if we turn to Him in faith.

Isaiah 26:3 (KJV)

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

(See Storms Page 8)

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2019

(Storms from Page 7)

The key is to turn to Him in trust rather than away from Him in doubt. The storm will pass. This is one of the things that helps us deal with the storms is the knowledge that even the worst storm eventually “blows over.” Even if it lasts a lifetime it will not last forever.

The question that we should ask is not “Will there be storms, or does Jesus care, but the question that we should ask is “Am I equipped to handle the storm because my relationship to Christ is what it ought to be?”

[1]*The Pulpit Commentary: St. Luke Vol. 2004* (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (213). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

[2]Henry, M. (1996, c1991). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: Complete and unabridged in one volume* (Lk 8:22). Peabody: Hendrickson.

(Wisdom from Page 2)

Words to light your path

“Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness;” and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” (1 Corinthians 3:18-20 NKJV)

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Corinthians 1:18 NKJV)

Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. (2 Corinthians 4:4)

This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. (Ephesians 4:17-18 NKJV)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light. See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise. (Eph.5:8,15 NKJV) (Via FaithWriters)

Dealing With An Addiction?

Victory Baptist Church offers qualified counselors to help you overcome addictive behaviors. Call 765-4530768 to make an appointment to meet with a counselor

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Published by
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