

WHEN STORMS COME

Text: Matthew 7:24-27 NIV

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Introduction

Meteorologists tell us that spring is “storm season” and summer brings hurricane season—even bigger storms. Due to the changing weather tornados, thunderstorms, hail and lightning are more likely in many areas. The storms can be predicted and even tracked by radar but there is no way of stopping the storm from coming. Knowing this, the best thing we can do is to be prepared in case the storms come our way.

In much the same way, it is a fact of life that spiritual and emotional storms come to all of our lives. Like natural storms they share several characteristics that it would be good for us to keep in mind. In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus makes a similar point with the following parable where He is emphasizing the need for us to take serious the act of guarding the condition of our heart and soul.

Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

I. STORMS ARE INEVITABLE.

II. STORMS SHOW NO PARTIALITY.

The good news...

III. STORMS CAN BE PREPARED FOR.

IV. STORMS ARE SURVIVABLE.

Conclusion

'The Perfect Storm' Sometimes Hits Our Lives

When the *Andrea Gail* left Gloucester Harbor in Massachusetts on September 20, 1991, and headed into the North Atlantic, no one could have known that this fishing boat would never be seen again. Only a bit of debris ever turned up, and the six crew members vanished forever. In his book *The Perfect Storm*, author Sebastian Junger immortalized the fate of *the Andrea Gail*. A film followed, but the real star of the book and the movie was the storm itself—a terrifying, relentless oppressor born of fierce wind and mountainous waves. No wonder meteorologists called it "the perfect storm."

Three deadly elements came together in October of 1991: a front moving from Canada toward New England; a high pressure system building over Canada's east coast; and the dying remnants of Hurricane Grace, churning along the eastern seaboard of the United States. Strong weather was coming from three of the four points on the compass, all of it converging on the little *Andrea Gail*.

On their own, warm air, cold air, and moist air are hardly noticeable. But when wind patterns force them together the result can be lethal. The last radio transmission of Billy Tyne, the captain of the fishing boat, came at 6:00 P.M. on October 28, 1991. He reported his coordinates to the captain of his sister ship, the *Hannah Boden*, saying, "She's comin' on, boys, and she's comin' on strong."

The book and movie brought the term "perfect storm" into common usage, but the concept is as old as humanity. People have always had to deal with the convergence of multiple rough circumstances. So much can go wrong so quickly that we shake our heads and say, "When it rains, it pours."

Adapted from David Jeremiah, What Are You Afraid Of?(Tyndale, 2013), page 169

The storms of life can be survived by proper preparation or through God's divine intervention.