

WITHIN THE STORMS **(Mark 4:35-37)**

The trials and troubles of life are often compared to storms. They come whether we like it or not. They come unexpectedly or we can see them building until they crash upon us. They threaten our security, they test our courage and survival skills. They make us question our faith and our God.

LESSONS IN THE STORM

Mark 4:35 The first lesson we can learn from this storm is that very often when the storms of life hit us we can be right in the center of God's will and place at the very moment a major trial hits us.

Mark 4:38 One of the hidden messages of this storm was that at the moment of panic because of the crisis, like us, these believers they really didn't understand Jesus could and would save them from certain death because of their crying out to Jesus saying "carest thou not that we perish?"

Mark 4:39-41 Just like believers today the disciples were aw-struck and amazed when Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea showing His power over the creation He rules over.

Mark 4:35; 5:1, 18-20 This lesson this storm shows is many times the storms stand in the way of something wonderful and spiritually good on the other side. Example: Abraham, Moses, David, Paul.

REASON FOR STORMS

II Corinthians 12:8-10 When we accept God's call on our life and begin to minister the gift we have received, God will chip away at the inconsistencies of our walk to make us better servants for Him.

II Corinthians 1:3-4 If we let Him, God wants to use the trials and storms of our life to make us stronger spiritually and more understanding of others that will go through the same storms as we do.

Acts 27:9-15 Here is a good example of sometimes why we get in a crisis. (1) Not taking good spiritual advice (2) Putting self ahead of good decisions (3) Sin in our life (4) Unknown -(**Job**).

James 1:2-4 Some of the trials of life are for God to produce in us the patience to endure more trails.

Hebrews 12:5-11 It is God's plan toward His own to love us first and discipline last, for us to repent, heed the conviction of the Spirit, through preaching and teaching of his word but He will discipline.

I Peter 1:3-7 God will always test His people in order to make sure their faith in Him is real and also in order to prove that we are capable to move to a higher plain in our service for the Lord.

Genesis 50:20 What a revealing verse of scripture!! God shows us that sometimes, from our perspective, we or someone we know and love are going through great trials and afflictions for no apparent reason. Sometimes, as in this case, trials can be a blessing in disguise either for blessings in the future or to keep us from greater harm, physically or spiritually down the road.

II Corinthians 12:7 Without a doubt every believer must at one time or another be put down from thinking too highly of themselves. God's number one dislike in mankind is that of a prideful heart.

Romans 5:1-5; 8:28 As we grow in grace and knowledge of God, we can begin to understand what the trials of life can produce within our spirit and soul. Trials brings with it spiritual growth if we let it.

Galatians 6:9; Hebrews 10:35-36 Many times the trials that come in our lives are for God to let us see if we will keep on serving Him in the trials or will we lose confidence in our faith and in Him.

Mark 4:38; John 9:1-7; 11:1, 6, 21 There is little doubt that all these examples of differing trials and crisis in these people's lives were bathed in prayer and seemingly ignored by God. We must remember that He will hear the prayers of His people if we are in right fellowship with Him. His time table is always different than ours and His plans are always that He gets the glory and we are His to be dealt with at it seems right in His eyes.