

SURVIVING THE HURRICANES OF LIFE

Psalm 107:23-32

September 21, 2008 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Many of us have someone who's life was disrupted because of Hurricane Ike. Our daughter and her two boys were right in the middle of it living in Northeast Houston. After it was past them Saturday morning, our two grandsons run outside shouting, "We survived Ike"..... We are grateful to God they did survive Ike.
- B. We probably have never experienced a hurricane, but we all have faced or will face other storms in life (i.e. financial ruin, divorce, family breakdowns, health issues, etc.).
- C. In the 107th Psalm we find a story of people who experienced their own storms.
 - 1. Psalms is divided into five separate books. This 107th psalm is the first of the last of these five books.
 - 2. The theme of this psalm is that God can be trusted today because of what he has done for us yesterday.
 - 3. In support of this theme the author lists four life-threatening situations and how God has delivered his people from each one of them.
 - a. The person who lost his home-vv. 4-9.
 - b. The person who lost his freedom-vv. 10-16.
 - c. The person who lost his health-vv. 17-22.
 - d. The person who almost lost his life-vv. 23-32.
 - 4. In this last life-threatening example lets notice what we need to "know" about the storms of life, then what we need to "do" about these same storms.

I. WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE STORMS OF LIFE?

- A. First, storms happen to everyone.
 - 1. Intellectually we know this, yet when the storm comes our reactions don't always coincide with this fact of life. Often we think or say things like...
 - a. Why is this happening to me?
 - b. I don't deserve this?
 - 2. Jesus, however, reminds us that storms are, indeed, a fact of life-Matthew 5:45.
- B. Second, the pain of our storms don't last forever.
 - 1. There may be damage to deal with, pieces of our lives to pick up afterwards, and lives to rebuild.
 - 2. The pain, however, caused by the suddenness of the storm with not last forever.
- C. Third, sometimes, in the midst of the storm, God seems silent.
 - 1. In Mark 4 there's a story about the disciples in the middle of their own storm-Mark 4:37. They were experiencing their own Category Four Storm.
 - 2. Where was Jesus? Verse 38 says he was asleep in the boat. Of course we know how the story ends. Jesus woke up and calmed the sea, but that doesn't change the fact that when the storm was raging Jesus seemed unaware of the crisis.
 - 3. There will be times in our lives too when it seems God isn't paying attention to what is happening to us, times when God is for whatever reason silent. During such times all we can do is cling to our faith and remember his promise—Hebrews 13:5.

II. SECOND, WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO ABOUT THE STORMS OF LIFE?

- A. First, during the storms of life we need to cry out to God.
 - 1. The sailors in our story didn't have any answers themselves to their crisis—vv.26-27. Have you ever been at your wits end?
 - 2. It was then they cried out to God—vv. 28-29.
 - 3. Jesus' disciples also cried out to him—Mark 4:38. During times of crisis you have two options. You can give up and say that Christianity doesn't work or you can go to God.

4. Some people say I tried that and it doesn't work. My question to them is how long did you try it? How long did you cry out to God? An hour? A day? A week? Sometimes it takes longer, so don't give up too soon.
- B. Second, during the storms of life let God guide you.
1. God guided these sailors-v.30.
 2. He will guide you if you ask him.
 3. Good advice, but how do you let God guide you?
 - a. Again, it takes time to learn how to follow God.
 - b. But more than this, it takes the desire for God to guide you. There is a big difference in asking God to bless the direction we already want to go and in letting him be our guide.
 - c. Solomon offers this advice—Proverbs 3:5-6.
- C. Third, during the storms of life remember to remember that God can be trusted.
1. These sailors remembered—v.31.
 2. The psalmist remembered-Psalms 77:8-11

CONCLUSION

- A. The hurricanes come into our lives in one form or another and it seems that God is often silent.
- B. When the storm is raging...
1. Cry out to God for as long as it takes.
 2. Let God guide you no matter how long it takes.
 3. Remember to remember that God can be trusted.