

HOW TO FACE THE STORMS

Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land (Psalms 37:8-9).

Interactive Questions:

- Why do we lose sight of God during the storms?
- What good can we take out of the storms?

Objective:

- To learn how to face the storms in our lives.
- To understand the importance of keeping our focus on Jesus

Illustration: *It was around three in the morning when the disciples found themselves in the middle of a great storm. The storm was so mighty that it moved Jesus to appear in the sea. Peter exclaimed from afar, "Lord if it is you tell me to come to you on the water!" Jesus replied, "Come." Peter comes out of the boat and starts walking on water, but then the waves and the winds distract and frighten him. Therefore, he starts sinking. Jesus stretches his hand out to rescue him saying, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" During the storms in life there are two weapons the enemy uses so that we lose our focus which are: distraction and fear. As children of God, we cannot allow ourselves to be distracted or intimidated; because it is during the turmoil that God brings out the best of us, He is glorified and He manifests the greatest miracles through us. DO NOT allow the storms to defeat you, instead take advantage of the experience to mature, strengthen your relationships with your loved ones and become a carrier of the glory of God.*

Introduction: *There is a violent wave that has risen in our country, causing many police officers to lose their lives, a trailer to kill several victims in France and other situations alike. We are in a fallen world, in the last times and where things only seem to get worst. The only hope for the world is the church. Today we will learn about how to face the storms in our lives.*

1. TAKE COURAGE AND BE BRAVE *Matthew 14:27*

- a. Courage and bravery can only be sustained in Christ. This marathon we are running in life is not easy, but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (*Philippians 4:13*).
- b. We cannot lose courage because in the most painful times of our life, God performs the most impressive miracles through us. Why? Because we are more sensitive, therefore we serve others with compassion and we feel their pain.
- c. Even though Jesus wanted to be alone and heal the loss of John, compassion for the souls moved him after his disciples. In this same way, we are also moved by love towards people, and during this movement God heals us.
- d. We must be careful with our relationship with God and not lose sight of the presence of God in our lives; even during the most painful times of our life. Let's seek God's face, because the Word promises that if we seek Him with all of our hearts we will find Him.
- e. Although we think that no one knows nor cares about our suffering, God knows all things and He will never leave you nor forsake you.

2. DO NOT BE AFRAID *Matthew 14:26 & 30*

- a. As children of God we cannot allow ourselves to be distracted nor intimidated by the waves of violence; because fear attracts evil spirits that can cause us to sink.
- b. When the disciples saw Jesus they thought he was a ghost! How is it possible that after being with him a few hours ago they did not recognize him? This happened because they were far from Jesus.
- c. When we are far from God, we stop getting to know His heart. Problems begin to blind us and take our vision to the point we no longer see God's hand in our lives.
- d. In marriage, a spouse begins to see their other spouse as a monster or a believer starts to see the church as a monster, so they complain against God. Pay attention! Do not move away from God and lose sight of the reality that surpasses this world.
- e. God calls us to be brave. He will lift our heads above our enemies. Do not faint because God has set us over the Rock and not sand. We will not be put to shame; we will live and not die! (*Psalms 27:5*).

3. TAKE A STEP OF FAITH *Matthew 14:28-29*

- a. Peter took a step of faith when he told Jesus to call him to walk on water.
- b. Jesus took a step of faith when God the Father revealed that his disciples were in a storm; therefore he had to stop praying and processing the loss of John so he could go rescue them.
- c. In marriage one also needs to take steps of faith. If you want to get married take a prepared step of faith and take pre-marital counseling, let go of the past luggage and wisely get married.
- d. When we are going through financial storms, we must take a step of faith in trying God; because His Word promises abundance and prosperity (*Malachi 3:10*).
- e. Do not be angry if a brother, sister or pastor did not visit you when you were going through difficult moments, instead put your trust in God.

4. KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON JESUS *Matthew 14:32-33*

- a. Peter did not lack boldness when he started walking on water, but his mistake was to be distracted by the waves and then fear. Nowadays, we start believing God, serving in the church and tithing, but the moment the violent waves frighten us, we lose focus.
- b. We all watch the news, but we cannot focus on the news. We need to fix our attention on Jesus. Only in this way can we keep ourselves over the waves.
- c. During a great recession in the U.S. we were able to build a temple for the Lord, because we fixed our eyes on God. Fixing our attention and affection on God is an act of worship.
- d. We must remain close to God, people of faith and in the supernatural movement, because God wants to pour out new wine in new wineskins.

Conclusion: *The storms only break what is weak, but those who are strong and firmly planted on the Rock that is Christ, will not be shaken. If you have been going through storms in your life, allow Jesus to come on your boat by praying the following prayer...*

SALVTION PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I recognize I have sinned and that you died for me. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness. I give you my heart and life, so you can be my Lord and Personal Savior, amen.