

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

19 October 2025

The Storms of Life

Text: "The one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete". *Luke 6:49*

Did you sing the song about this in Bible School?

The wise man builds his house on the rock.

The rock for today is Jesus The Christ, The Son of God!

Ok two things I want you to know that you know.

The most powerful prayer you can utter is: Jesus help me.

Or God help me.

It gets the same response.

I do not know about praying Holy Spirit help me.

I know of no one who prayed that prayer and what happened.

The other powerful words we can speak is, I love you when we really mean it.

Please build your life on the rock of ages.

My resource called this part of Luke a great sermon of Jesus.

A good sermon ends with a conclusion and a call for a response.

Jesus calls for a response from the one who is able to really hear what he is saying.

He uses a parable about two builders to call for a careful response to what he has been saying.

The conclusion was that storms will test every life sooner or later.

A proper response to the message of Christ will not enable us to avoid the storms, but it will enable us to withstand them.

What are the storms that will test our lives?

The storms of temptation will test our lives.

What is a Christian tempted to do?

To step back away from our convictions to avoid controversy.

Jesus uses a common event to describe being tested.

That is a flood, a torrent which struck the home.

The home built on a solid foundation withstood the torrent.

However if the house was not built on a solid foundation its destruction was complete.

Temptation is one such storm that comes into our lives.

Temptations are common in life.

The apostle Paul declared, "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man."

This is one storm that will beat against every house sooner or later.

Temptation comes by divine permission.

While God does not tempt us, he does permit temptation.

Jesus told Peter of the approaching storm of temptation.

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail".

The figure of sifting emphasizes the testing aspect of the temptation.

Like a storm tests the foundation of a house temptations will test the foundation of each life.

Jesus wants to help us build for the storms.

The storms of suffering will test our lives.

What a storm is to a house, suffering is to a human life.

Suffering will soon reveal the character of the life and is allowed for that very purpose.

Suffering is described in Scripture under several different figures.
It is often described as a "fire" into which the life is cast like metal into the fire.
The fire will not change the metal, but it will surely prove it.
The storms of suffering come in many different forms.
Economic conditions can cause suffering.
The turbulent economic conditions of recent years have surely demonstrated this.
How would you react to losing your job?
This kind of storm may blow in upon us without any warning.
When it does, it will test the foundations of our lives.
Political conditions can cause suffering.
The early Christians often found themselves bombarded by contrary political winds and tried by political forces.
It still happens in our world.
Could you hold your life together if your political freedoms were suddenly taken away?
Emotional stress can cause suffering.
It is impossible to live in this world without encountering stressful and depressing circumstances.
Physical problems will cause suffering.
Cancer, a heart attack, a stroke, or some other dreaded disease does not fall simply on the foolish.
Some who suffer the most severely are the most saintly.
Have you escaped the storms of suffering so far?
This should be a cause for thanksgiving for the good providence of the Lord God.
However, it should not lead you to be presumptuous.
This is no sure sign that storms will not come.
Life can change in a moment.
The storm of judgment will test our lives.
The last judgment was probably primary in the mind of Jesus as he gave this sermon.
He spoke against a background of the kingdom of God and the age to come.
The sermon makes no sense if there is not a life beyond death and if there is no accountability to God for one's life.
The storm of judgment is certain.
"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." *Heb. 9:27*
God himself has set up this appointment for ever one of us.
You may be able to bribe your way out of earthly judgments, but there will be no escape from the final judgment.
The storm of judgment will be revealing.
So many things will appear differently in light of the last judgment.
Many lives that looked outwardly secure and prosperous will crumble into a heap before the power of this storm.
Some lives that may have looked outwardly weak and vulnerable will stand strong before the wind of judgment.
This parable about the storm emphasizes the seriousness of life.
Each of us is building for time and eternity.
What we are doing with our lives will be put to the test by the great giver of life.
Wise people build with an eye to the storm.
In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us the ingredients of a life that will stand the storms.
He says the wise person is the one who hears these sayings of our Lord and does them.
He builds his life on them.
Will your life, as you are now living it, stand the storms?
Storms are inevitable.
Get ready by being one with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
Then it is easy to pray the prayer that changes everything.
Jesus help me! For I love you and need you.