



“...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind.” **Matthew 13:47**

**Number 5**

**Volume XXXVI**

**October 19, 2020**

**STORM LESSONS**—Many of you know that on the night of September 15, 2020, Hurricane Sally hit the coast of Alabama as a CAT 2 (100+mph) hurricane. At the time, this writer was in the Scranton, PA area for a mission conference. The day after the storm I was talking to my daughter, who lives in the impact zone. She spoke of the fear that the sounds of the storm brought—sounds of devastation and destruction. Being born in the area, I have personally gone through such times. Looking back, there are many lessons to learn that give help for future times. Let me mention just a few.

1) It is wise to respect its power. Hurricanes (called such here in the US) are rated in power from CAT 1-5 (Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale 75-150mph). While weather channels seem to overplay wind reports, the average person usually downplays it. When I arrived back at home, just driving down my driveway put the fear of God all over me. The one thing a storm’s power reminds me of is that only GOD is in control. Man is helpless at such times. I am reminded of Psalm 147:5, where David said, “*Great is our Lord, and of great power...*”

2) Watch its approach. In our area many businesses offer free Hurricane Tracking Charts. Hourly weather reports give the position of the storm (longitude, latitude), so there is no excuse to be caught off guard. Personally I believe a storm of enormous magnitude is yet ahead. I am following it on my tracking chart (Bible). Do you have one? Are you using it?

3) If it is powerful, “evaluate” it as soon as possible. State officials usually determine the severity of the approaching hurricane, and then order evacuation of affected areas. I have seen times where a line of evacuees stretched from our area to Montgomery, AL North and to New Orleans, LA West. The powerful storm coming our way is mentioned in Revelation 6:17, “*For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*” It will catch most unprepared and the only hope is to be caught out. Thank God for His evacuation plan. 1 Thessalonians 4:17, “*Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*” Do you personally have this evacuation plan?

Many lessons could be seen if eyes are open. Really times of storm give opportunity to get to know the God of the storm. The disciples learned this in Mark 4:35-41. They saw through the angry waves that having Christ aboard they should not be fearful; they would not perish; and He could calm the storm. In the account He not only calmed the storm but He “calmed” them. I like their response in verse 41, “*And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and*

*the sea obey him?*” I like the song “*Stand by Me*”.

*When the storms of life are raging,  
Stand by me.*

*When the storms of life are raging,  
Stand by me.*

*When the world is tossing me  
Like a ship upon the sea,  
Thou who rulest wind and water  
Stand by me.*

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**DON'T FEEL READY**—In presenting the gospel to others, and pressing for a decision to “trust” Christ, I have heard the statement, “I just don’t feel ready!” It seems as if some want to try to reform somewhat first. But that would be like...

- ...waiting until you feel better to go to the doctor.
- ...when you are hungry, waiting until your appetite is satisfied before you sit down to eat.
- ...a person shivering in the cold, waiting until he is warm before starting a fire.
- ...waiting until after the storm hits to prepare for its impact.

If a person knows he is unsure of his eternal destiny, it is best for him to “immediately” come to Christ, the One who can meet his need. 2 Corinthians 6:2, “*...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*”

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**A “CRAB ROBOT”**—Researchers in Singapore have developed a robotic system to remove tumors quickly and without scarring. Rather than cut through the abdomen, it uses a camera mounted on a flexible tube to guide instruments through the mouth and to the surgical site. The robot’s “crab legs” have a pincer to grab cancerous tissue and a hook to slice it off. The idea was born during a seafood dinner, when a surgeon pointed out that crabs, with strong yet efficient pincers, would make excellent stand-ins for surgeons. In operations on five test patients, surgeries that typically took up to eight hours were performed in an average of just 18 minutes. Psalm 107:24, “*these see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep.*”

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**DWELL DEEP**—It is said by those who have to do with submarines that, no matter how furious the storm upon the surface of the ocean, the vessel has but to submerge to certain depths to find a place whose calm no storm ever disturbs. The fact offers us a spiritual analogy. The deep things of life are always calm and steadfast. Exclaims the apostle Paul, “*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!...*” Romans 11:33. Elsewhere his prayer is “*that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to*

*comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height: and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge...*" Ephesians 3:17,18. We live in a world that is being torn to pieces by the storms of human passion. Because of the terrors of this world conflict, our minds are disturbed and our hearts are distressed. In such a time we need more than ever to "dwell deep" in the knowledge and love of God. There we shall find that inner peace and assurance that will enable us to look through the present chaos to the fulfillment of the eternal purposes.

Dwell deep, my soul; dwell deep within the ocean  
Of God's rest, undisturbed by surface storm.  
O let Him calm thy restless thought to silence,  
The spirit—to His image He'll conform.

**THE GATE IS CLOSING**—Do you know how to catch wild pigs? You catch wild pigs by finding a suitable place in the woods and putting corn on the ground. The pigs find it and begin to come every day to eat the free corn.

When they are used to coming every day, you put a fence down one side of the place where they are used to coming. When they get used to the fence, they begin to eat the corn again and you put up another side of the fence. They get used to that and start to eat again. You continue until you have all four sides of the fence up with a gate in the last side. The pigs, which are used to the free corn, start to come through the gate to eat that free corn again. You then slam the gate on them and catch the whole herd.

Suddenly the wild pigs have lost their freedom. They run around and around inside the fence, but they are caught. Soon they go back to eating the free corn. They are so used to it that they have forgotten how to forage in the woods for themselves, so they accept their captivity. (There is no such thing as a free lunch.)

Do you see that all the wonderful government "help" is a problem confronting the future of democracy in America? Do you think the free ride is essential to your way of life? THEN WAIT UNTIL THE GATE SLAMS SHUT! Galatians 6:7, "*Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*"

Be careful November 3rd!

Promises made in the storm are soon forgotten in the calm.

**A WAY TO ESCAPE**—A school of fish resembles a large organism. The school's members swim in tight formations, wheeling and reversing in near unison. When the school turns to the right or the left, individuals formerly on the flank assume the lead. When under attack, a school may respond by leaving a gaping hole around a predator. More often, the school splits in half and the two halves turn outward, swim around the predator, reverse direction, and eventually rejoin each other. This "fountain effect" leaves the predator ahead of the school. Each time the predator turns, the same thing happens.

Some filmmakers have produced fine video footage taken in tropical waters, showing schools of fish, perhaps several hundred, all swimming in very close

formation. Something alerts them and they all turn in exactly the same direction in a micro-second; there is no confusion, no touching. Did this develop through an evolutionary process, or is it clearly one superb Mind in absolute control of each of those fish to guide and to keep them and to teach us? That Mind, of course, is the One who created the fish and the oceans in which they live. Jesus is His name.

-R. Sheldrake

1 Corinthians 10:13, "*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*"

#### HAVE YOU LEARNED?

...time is the line spinning off the reel of life.

...not to compare yourself with others, you have no idea what their journey is all about.

...a good time to keep your mouth shut is when you are in deep water.

...religion is a counterfeit for knowing God.

...to diligently seek the "truth" or a lie will find you.

...that when you are over the hill you pick up speed.

...that we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

...that God didn't do it all in one day, so what makes you think you can?

...that ignoring the facts doesn't change them.

...that opportunities are never lost, someone just took the one you missed.

...that when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

...that it's good to keep your words soft and tender, because you may have to eat them.

...that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

...that the one thing that men learn from history is that men never learn from history.

If you love the ruler, the rules are no problem.

#### FISHY FUNNIES

Tourist—What will I do if I get seasick?

Mariner—Don't worry, you'll do it.

A fisherman told a friend that his wife was suffering from depression. The friend asked, "What's the cause?" The fisherman replied, "ABC, CBS, NBC...".

If you are always fishing for compliments, you can expect to be handed a line.

After being married for 57 years, I've learned of all the home remedies...a good wife is the best. Fifty-seven year of marriage, you say. How did you make it that far? You see, I tried not to spend so much time earning my salt that I forgot my SUGAR!

—AWMund

If you don't have a sense of humor, you probably don't have any sense at all.

There's nothing **fishy**, there's no **debate**, from any **angle**, our supporters are great! **Thank you!**