

## **Always Be Ready for Life's Storms**

(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, August 9, 2020)

### **1)Matthew 14:22-33**

**22** Immediately Jesus [a]made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. **23** And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. **24** But the boat was now [b]in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.

**25** Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. **26** And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear.

**27** But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, [c]"Be of good cheer! [d]It is I; do not be afraid."

**28** And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."

**29** So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. **30** But when he saw [e]that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

**31** And immediately Jesus stretched out *His* hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" **32** And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

**33** Then those who were in the boat [f]came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

In this passage, the Lord Jesus' disciples had no idea that they were going to face a storm when they left the Lord to go to the other side of the lake...

Oftentimes storms are unexpected...

That is why it is so important to always be prepared for them, as much as possible...

### **2)Matthew 24:42-51**

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**42** Watch therefore, for you do not know what [g]hour your Lord is coming. **43** But know this, that if the master of the house had known what [h]hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. **44** Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

### **The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant**

**45** “Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food [i]in due season? **46** Blessed *is* that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. **47** Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods. **48** But if that evil servant says in his heart, ‘My master is delaying [j]his coming,’ **49** and begins to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards, **50** the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for *him* and at an hour that he is not aware of, **51** and will cut him in two and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

We prepare ourselves by always doing our best to live for the Lord Jesus...

Trying our best to live for the Lord Jesus is what watching for the Lord Jesus’ coming is all about...

When we are doing our best to live for the Lord Jesus, we will be doing those activities, like praying, studying the Bible, and fasting, which will make us strong when the storms of life arise...

### **3)Matthew 25:1-13**

“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. **2** Now five of them were wise, and five *were* foolish. **3** Those who *were* foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, **4** but

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the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. **5** But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept.

**6** "And at midnight a cry was *heard*: 'Behold, the bridegroom [a]is coming; go out to meet him!' **7** Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. **8** And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us *some* of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' **9** But the wise answered, saying, 'No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.' **10** And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut.

**11** "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' **12** But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

**13** "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour [b]in which the Son of Man is coming.

Spiritually oil represents the empowering or anointing of the Holy Spirit...

### **4)1 Samuel 16:1,3,11-13**

Now the Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have [a]provided Myself a king among his sons."

**2** And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears *it*, he will kill me."

But the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' **3** Then invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; you shall anoint for Me the one I name to you."

**4** So Samuel did what the Lord said, and went to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

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**5** And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Sanctify[b] yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice.

**6** So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, "Surely the Lord's anointed *is* before Him!"

**7** But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have [c]refused him. For[d] *the Lord does not see as man sees*; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

**8** So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." **9** Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." **10** Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these." **11** And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."

And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not [e]sit down till he comes here." **12** So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with [f]bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him; for this *is* the one!" **13** Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

To have our lamps filled with oil, like the five wise virgins who were ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus, one of the main things we have to do is to

\*\*\*Pay attention when the Holy Spirit speaks:

**5)James 1:21-25**

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**21** Therefore lay aside all filthiness and [d]overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

**22** But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. **23** For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; **24** for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. **25** But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Paying attention to what God says definitely means that we follow what He has to say...

Some people think that God has to speak to them directly through His audible voice, a vision, or a dream...

Although these are generally not the most common ways in which the Lord Jesus speaks to us, He can speak to us in these ways...

### **6) Joel 2:28**

“And it shall come to pass afterward  
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;  
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
Your old men shall dream dreams,  
Your young men shall see visions.

Here we see that the Lord Jesus can speak to us through words of prophecy, dreams, and visions...

God can also speak to us audibly...

### **7)1 Kings 19:5-18**

**5** Then as he lay and slept under a broom tree, suddenly an [b]angel touched him, and said to him, “Arise *and* eat.” **6** Then he

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looked, and there by his head was a cake baked on [c]coals, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. **7** And the [d]angel of the Lord came back the second time, and touched him, and said, "Arise *and* eat, because the journey *is* too great for you." **8** So he arose, and ate and drank; and he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights as far as Horeb, the mountain of God.

**9** And there he went into a cave, and spent the night in that place; and behold, the word of the Lord *came* to him, and He said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

**10** So he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

### **God's Revelation to Elijah**

**11** Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, *but* the Lord *was* not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, *but* the Lord *was* not in the earthquake; **12** and after the earthquake a fire, *but* the Lord *was* not in the fire; and after the fire [e]a still small voice.

**13** So it was, when Elijah heard *it*, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave.

Suddenly a voice *came* to him, and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

**14** And he said, "I have been very zealous for the Lord God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

**15** Then the Lord said to him: "Go, return on your way to the Wilderness of Damascus; and when you arrive, anoint Hazael as king over Syria. **16** Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of

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Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. **17** It shall be *that* whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. **18** Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

In this passage, we see that Elijah heard the audible voice of God...

We also see how important our personal commitment to living right for God can be...

In the times of Elijah, Israel avoided God's judgement at least in part due to the 7000 people who were doing their best to live right before God...

\*\*\*In addition to speaking to us through His audible voice, visions, and dreams, God also speaks to us through prophetic words...

A prophetic word can be defined as an insight from the Holy Spirit that is usually given to us by another person...

### **8)1 Thessalonians 5:20**

**20** Do not despise prophecies.

### **9)Acts 21:3-13**

**3** When we had sighted Cyprus, we passed it on the left, sailed to Syria, and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload her cargo. **4** And finding [a]disciples, we stayed there seven days. They told Paul through the Spirit not to go up to Jerusalem. **5** When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till *we were* out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed. **6** When we had taken our leave of one another, we boarded the ship, and they returned home.

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**7** And when we had finished *our* voyage from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, greeted the brethren, and stayed with them one day. **8** On the next *day* we [b]who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was *one* of the seven, and stayed with him. **9** Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. **10** And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. **11** When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his *own* hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver *him* into the hands of the Gentiles.' "

**12** Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. **13** Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

If the Apostle Paul would have listened to the prophetic words given to him, his life would have not been cut short unnecessarily, and he would have been able to minister to more people...

\*\*\*Besides His audible voice, visions, dreams, and prophetic words, the most common way that God speaks to us is through His Word...

He can speak to us when we read the Bible with a heart that is open to hearing guidance from God...

### **10)Psalm 119:105**

**105**

Your word *is* a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.



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Accordingly, the Lord Jesus speaks to us through Bible-based messages...

### **11)1 Timothy 5:17-20**

**17** Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. **18** For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer *is* worthy of his wages." **19** Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. **20** Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.

We are to respect those who share the Word of God with us...

### **12)Acts 6:1-7**

Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists,[a] because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. **2** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. **3** Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; **4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

**5** And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, **6** whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

**7** Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

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In addition to hearing Bible-based messages, we should come to the place where we can receive a word directly from God's Word...

### **13) Ephesians 6:17-20**

**17** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; **18** praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— **19** and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

<https://biblehub.com/lexicon/ephesians/6-17.htm>

The Word for Word here is rhema, which can be defined as a word from God that impacts us, as opposed to Logos, which can be defined as the general Word of God...

When we get a specific word from God during our Bible study, we will be able to fight spiritual battles...

### **14) Psalm 119:11**

Your word I have hidden in my heart,  
That I might not sin against You.

We have to engrave God's Word in our hearts.

### **15) Matthew 4:1-4**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **2** And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. **3** Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

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**4** But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

When we engrave God's Word in our hearts, we will get the spiritual nourishment we need to be ready for life's storms