

The Rain Song

And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house...

(Mathew 7:25,27 – ESV)

At the end of Jesus' teaching, the "Sermon on the Mount", as it is known, He talked about the implications of either doing or refusing His words. He painted a scenario where our lives are illustrated by two houses. One house stands and one falls, both the result of inclement weather. The meaning was clear, do His words and you will stand, don't and you will fall.

However, let's not be too quick to think we are done dealing with this. Consider well the fact that *both* houses had a storm. Yet one served to destroy the house and the other pointed out how secure the foundation was. The truth is that the vagaries of life are bound to happen to all people, they are an irresistible event, in that they will come, no matter any of our plans. However, we can be like the immovable object, our being grounded in Christ gives Him glory when the inevitable storms of life come our way.

Make no mistake, in this passage and woven into the whole fabric of the New Testament is the idea that the storms will come. We cannot simply name it and claim it so as to avoid them. No way, because that would not give God the glory He is due, it would only save you from suffering and serve to sever you from sanctification. Besides, does it give glory to God to have you gloat about being in His supposed favor, or will it give more glory to God for people to see you stand in the power of His might first (Ephesians 6:10), and also to testify.

Friends, it is about the power to *withstand* the storm, not the power to *withdraw* the storm. Christianity, from the sanctification side, is less about being an irresistible force, and more about being an immovable object.

What gives God more glory? Indeed, it is more worthy of the fellowship of the sufferings of our Lord (Philippians 1:29) to be able to withstand the storm, so others may give God glory too (Matthew 5:16). Then our words will resonate, having stood firm on the Solid Rock, to give voice to His glory as a personal witness. The winds and rain will fall on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45), the question is, will your house stand as a testimony to the power of God, or will it fall to the frailties of a life lived without following God?