

## **Fear Not Little Flock**

Sunday, September 02, 2012

By Rev. James May

This has been a trying week for us all and for some among us the trying times are not over yet. Strong winds, record rainfalls and rising water have threatened, and still threaten, to destroy property and impact many lives terribly. Through it all, God still speaks peace to the hearts of those whose trust is in him. For the majority of us, the storms of life are little more than a big inconvenience. But there are some among us who have yet to really know how much impact has been made upon our lives.

***But of this one thing we can be most grateful – that God is still God and that in spite of it all, the blessings of Heaven are still being poured out upon us.***

The great consolation is that there was little loss of life. Some people either refused to heed warnings or were trapped and had to try to ride out the storm in place and did not live to tell the tale. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who lost so much. There are a lot of people today who have no home to go to for the flood waters have washed it all away. A lifetime of working, building and saving is all gone in a moment of time. And yet the loss of property and possessions doesn't compare with the loss of life.

As God's people, we have come together today in the Lord's House to give God thanks for his great mercy. And though there are some who are still dealing the issues of the storm and aren't able to be here, yet we are thankful that the issues they face will also just temporary. We thank the Lord today that none of our church family was hurt or injured.

We praise God this morning for the testimonies of God's keeping power and how he reached out to help those who experienced times of need. Surely God is with us always.

***I was speaking to Bro. Billy J., who was unable to make it this morning, but called to testify of God's goodness to him.*** Their electricity was restored yesterday afternoon, and the tree that had fallen across the road, blocking his way out, was finally removed. But the stormy weather had given them a rough time for a while. During a lull in the pouring rain he had gone outside to put gas into the generator. As some of you know, when you have breathing issues, you really start struggling to breath right if the power is out and there's no air conditioning. Generators are a

blessing of the Lord, and for the many who have none, I really feel for you. The heat and darkness just seems to make things so much worse.

As Bro. B was pouring in the gas, he said it was all that he could do to just put a little at a time because of the wind, the rain and the weight of the gas can. He was really struggling to fill the tank. Sis. J., watching him from the rain splattered window said that she could see that “someone” was helping him hold the can, but B. said that he was alone. Could it be than an angel of God was holding up the end of the can?

The next time he went to fill the tank, it was still raining, the ground was slick, the patio was covered with water, and as he stepped off the cement to refuel the generator again he slipped and fell in the mud and water. He was wondering if he would be able to get up because just getting up from kneeling in prayer is a struggle without anything to hold onto. But Bro. B. said that he just jumped up off the ground with ease and he can only believe that it was God’s hand just reaching down and picking him up. No broken bones, only a small bruise and all is well. God was with him all the way. He had been able to get up like that in many months but he was able to just get up out of the mud with ease.

*As I was able to visit with, or speak to, many of the church members after the storm had passed, it brought joy to my heart to hear of the words of hope; the words of praise unto the Lord; and the peace that was there in spite of the things that everyone was dealing with. The real test of your faith is how you react in times of trouble and all I can say is that from what I have seen; there are a lot of people with strong faith in Victory Temple.* I thank God for you all.

*It’s so great to know that God cares about the little things in our lives.* He care when a leaf falls from the tree and lands upon the ground of your home. He cares when the limbs come crashing down. He cares when the winds peel back your roof and the water comes pouring in. God cares about everything that happens to you because you are his child and he cares for you.

All of us have some cleanup to contend with, tree limbs, leaves and such; but there are some today who are having to empty their homes, dry out carpets and begin to replace ruined furniture. So if all we have are a few limbs, we are so blessed. And for those who are suffering greater things we not pray that God helps them, but as we are able let us also lend a helping hand. Who knows what can happen when we show the love of God to others in need. This could be the tool that God will use to bring a soul to Christ.

*For all of us who have not suffered the flooding of our homes, I thank God. But for all of those who have, let us have a heart of compassion and a helping hand if the opportunity arises. For all of us who have managed, by the grace of God, to come through with no real damage; let's pray for, and be mindful of, those around us who have suffered so much more.*

Thank God that the impact of Isaac was far less than it could have been and now the sun has risen on a new day. God is still real in our hearts, and the peace of God dwells in us richly. No winds of adversity; no storms of life can take away that peace that God gives for we know that all things are in His hands, and that somehow all things will work out for our good.

*Through every storm of life the child of God can hear the voice of our Father over the wind and waves as he speaks words of peace to our hearts.* When the winds howl in the night, we hear him whisper in our hearts, "Fear Not". When it seems that the whole world has been cast into panic and chaos, Jesus speaks peace and says, "Don't panic, don't fear, for I am with you, and I will never leave you nor forsake you." When the lights go out, and you're cast into darkness, and winds and rain fill the darkness with a sense of foreboding, you can lay your head upon your pillow and just put it in God's hands, let him worry about it, and fall asleep in the peace of God that passes understanding. All because we know that *Jesus is our Rock, our Fortress, our High Tower and we run to him and He will never fail to be there when you call on his name.*

All during the panic of people running to buy everything that they thought was necessary for survival the same scriptures kept running over and over in my mind. Did I go fill the cars with gas? Yes! Did I go get some groceries? Yes! God did give us a brain to use, and he wants us to put feet to our faith.

If you want to just sit back and believe God to drop a can of gas on your doorstep, or for a loaf of bread to miraculously appear on your dinner table, go ahead. But if that doesn't happen, then don't look up to Heaven and blame God for failing you when he gave you two good feet, a car to ride in, a store to go to and money in your pocket to provide what you need and you didn't want to go and do what you could for yourself. You see, God often moves only when we have exhausted our own resources. That's his way of insuring that you know it's God that is working on your behalf.

*But the point is, when you walk in and there's no bread, no milk, and the gas pumps are either jammed with traffic or already pumped dry – don't panic! Have faith that all will be well.* When you need gas, it will be there. When you need bread, God will provide.

***God is your provider, not Exxon-Mobil. And God is your provider, not the AG food store.*** He will make a way for you if you'll just trust him! I hope that all of you, as God's children, know that he loves you and will provide for you. Even if he has to turn rainwater into gasoline, God will do it for you. Even if he has to create one lone loaf of bread, hidden in a corner of a shelf where it shouldn't be, and even if that bread isn't your favorite kind of bread; at least it's bread.

And if you're among the many who had to sit in the dark, in the heat of the summer, with no power, just remember that for thousands of years, your ancestors didn't even know that electricity, light bulbs and air conditioning even existed and somehow they made it through. We have become spoiled and accustomed to having it good that we forget that none of the modern conveniences are really necessary for survival. I'm glad we have them and I don't want to give them up either but God didn't promise we'd have what we like or want. He did promise to provide what we need.

***Now don't think that Bro. May is saying you need to just sit down and do nothing and that trying to be more comfortable isn't faith. There's nothing wrong with trying to make life as easy as you can either.*** That's using your head and your God-given powers of thinking and reasoning. God doesn't like for you to suffer either so don't feel bad about trying to make things better.

***The whole message is wrapped up in the words that Jesus spoke to his disciples in Luke chapter 12.***

***Luke 12:22*** And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

***Luke 12:23*** The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

While the world around you scrambles for the last drop of gas or the last can of soup, why join them? They have no faith, not in one another, and certainly not in God because the world doesn't know God; neither do they have the same promises given to them as the child of God!

Nearly every one of those scrambling to empty the shelves of the grocery store are not starving. In fact, a lot of them are so horizontally challenged that they need help getting things loaded to take them home. But it's all about what they see – the vision that is ahead. Without faith, all they see is that there won't be anything for me tomorrow if I don't get it now!

That's not the way that a Christian thinks! We not only have what we need right now; but we also have faith to believe that God will provide for our tomorrow. We have learned to be content where we are; and walk by faith that our Provider never fails.

We've learned to do as Jesus says in **Luke 12:24**, "*Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?*"

**Luke 12:29** *And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.*

*Luke 12:27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

**Jesus says to each of us this morning, "Fear not little flock. I've got your back."**

**Luke 12:28** *If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?*

If God can use the rain to water the grass and make it grow, even though the water goes over the grass; can't God turn those things that seem to drown you in trouble and threaten to destroy all that you have worked for, and then turn those things into blessings in the end? Just have faith. God is on your side and he will never fail you. When it's all said and done, the end will be better than the beginning. It seems impossible; the way is not revealed; but God is already at work, creating the way that will lead you to victory in the end.

The world seeks to satisfy itself for they have no one to truly care for them. Their father, the devil, doesn't care. He laughs at their calamity and only brings more upon them. He knows what they need, but has not the heart to give anything good. All he knows how to do is lie, steal, kill and deceive.

**Luke 12:30** *For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.*

**What should we be seeking?** Why have you left the work at home that needs to be done to be in the House of God this morning? Why do we come here when there are so many other things we could be doing? The reason is – we need Jesus and his Word more than anything else in this world.

**Luke 12:31** *But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

*Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

You have a Heavenly Father who cares for you. His eye is always upon you. You are the “apple of his eye”; a favored child. God is not standing over you with a rod of correction, ready to smite you for everything you do.

*My God is a loving Father whose heart is gladdened every time He is able to give us a blessing. I can picture a smile upon his face every time you have a good day. God gets great pleasure out of providing your needs and blessing your day.*

***So go out today and make God smile! Enjoy yourself in the Lord! Bring pleasure to the heart of God as He pours blessing upon your life. Don't worry about tomorrow, but live today in the presence of God. God will provide for your tomorrow. He is your Healer, your Deliverer, your Comforter, your source of Peace, Joy and Victory! He is God your Father and he loves you!***